The New-York Times.

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TELEGRAMS.

Full Particulars of the Damage to the Steamship Pereire.

The Equality of Religious Sects Proclaimed in Spain.

Capture of Angostura by the Allied Army in Paraguay.

THE STEAMSHIP PEREIRE.

Full Particulars of the Recent Disaster —Three Passengers Killed.

HAVRE, Thursday, Jan. 28.

The steamship Pereire, Capt. Duchesne, sailed from Havre on Friday the 15th inst. for New-York, touching at Brest, which port she left the day following, the 16th. She experienced strong head winds and heavy weather almost from the start. The storm increased in violence until, when five days out from Brest, it became a furious gale which threatened the destruction of the ship. Heavy seas broke over her, carrying away entirely her forward deck cabin, the dining saloon for the second-class passengers, deluging the engine room, and partially disabling the ship. The storm caused the vessel to labor tremendously, and the passengers and crew were thrown from place to place with great violence. The loss of life and injury to persons on board are attributable to this cause only. At length on the 21st inst. the Pereire shipped an immense sea, estimated at a thousand tons, which completely flooded the cabin, and killed one of the passengers outright—a Miss Fuessenmeyer, from Germany. The storm coming from the west, Capt. Duchesne being doubtful of his ability to successfully ride it out, thought it prudent to put the vessel about, which was done, and she arrived safely at Havre on the 26th inst. As before stated, three of the crew and three of the second-class passengers were killed, and many others injured. The injuries, however, were mainly slight, and all are now doing well. Mr. O'REILLY, a Catholic priest, Mr. FOSTER, a Swedenborgian, and Miss FUESSENMEYER, were the only passengers killed. The latter had her back broken. None of the first-class passengers were injured. The Pereire's passengers will go forward to New-York in the St. Laurent next Saturday.

Before the arrival of the Pereire at Havre the passengers assembled in the cabin and unanimously passed resolutions complimenting the commander of the ship, Capt. Duchesne, for his courage and seamanship, as demonstrated not only in the present one, but many times before, and especially in the collision of the Pereire with the Arabia on the American coast years ago.

SPAIN.

The Equality of Religious Sects Proclaimed.

MADRID, Thursday, Jan. 28.

The Provisional Government, for the purpose of preventing the repetition of such outrages as the one just perpetrated at Burgos, has issued a decree establishing the equality of religious sects before the law.

AUSTRIA.

Destructive Fire at Trieste.

TRIESTE, Thursday, Jan. 28.

An extensive fire occurred in the business portion of the city last night. The Custom-house, the railroad depot in the vicinity, and several Government warehouses were destroyed.

PARAGUAY.

Capture of Angostura by the Allies—Flight of Lopez.

LONDON, Thursday, Jan. 28.

Later news has been received from the seat of war in Paraguay via Rio Janeiro.

The town of Angostura, to which the Paraguayans retreated after the battle at Villeta, was soon afterward captured by the allied forces, and Lopez fled with the remainder of his army into the interior. Gen. MACMAHON, the American Minister, still accompanied President LOPEZ. Admiral DAVIS was at Buenos Ayres.

CUBA.

Capture of Volunteers for the Insurgent Army—A Suspected Schooner Released.

HAVANA, Thursday, Jan. 28.

The Spanish man-of-war *Venceslao*, after a sharp chase, captured near Romano Key an English schooner, hailing from Nassau. A party of twenty-two native Cubans were found on board of the vessel. They were on their way to join the insurgents in this island. It is reported that during the chase the men on this schooner, seeing that capture was inevitable, threw overboard a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Spanish wrecking contines to represent that the movements of the Rescue Department, in large numbers, are presenting themselves to the authorities and claiming the benefit of the amnesty proclamation.

The wrecking schooner *Arrow*, seized on suspicion, has after investigation been released, there being no evidence that she was engaged in carrying supplies to the rebels.

The charges against Capt. ADAMS, of the steamer *Morro Castle*, for shipping passengers without passports, have been dismissed.

Since the recent disturbances in the city, the theatres and all other places of public entertainment have been closed.

The Arkansas Outrages—The Conduct of the Militia.

MEMPHIS, Thursday, Jan. 28.

Gov. CLAYTON, of Arkansas, says in regard to affairs in the State, that the militia had committed some outrages, for which he is responsible, that had been summarily dealt with. The militia acted as well as any troops would under similar circumstances. Many outrages had been committed by marauders, following in the wake of real representatives to be militiamen. The militia officers had instructed the citizens to shoot down such freebooters. Another cause of the reported outrages is the fact that the organization of a Commissary train being impracticable, he had ordered the officers to subsist at their commands off the country and give vouchers for supplies where the the obtainable could establish their loyalty. He was determined to save the evil for all time to come, making short, decisive work of it. Several counties are still under martial law, but the number of these, as well as the militia force, is being reduced as fast as possible.

The Georgia Legislature—Inquiries Regarding the Election.

ATLANTA, GA., Thursday, Jan. 28.

A joint committee of the Legislature has been appointed to inquire whether any money has been drawn from the Treasury except by appropriations made by law, and whether any money has been drawn by Executive warrant without authority of law. The Committee can investigate with power to send for persons and papers and enforce obedience to their duties. The result of the investigation is to be reported to the General Assembly. A committee of one from the Senate and two from the House has been appointed to visit those portions of the State where it is reported that freedmen men are scoring about and threatening the lives of both whites and blacks, and otherwise disturbing the tranquility of the community. If the Committee find the reports true they are instructed to report why the civil authority is not exercised to suppress the same. The Speaker of the House is in favor of appointing a special committee to go to Washington to consult at it. Congress on the affairs of the State. The Committee spoken of consists of Hon. HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON, ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS and other distinguished Georgians.

BILLIARDS.

The Great Match at Montreal Between Dion and Foster—Dion the Winner.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

MONTREAL, Friday, Jan. 29—3 A. M.

At 9:30 o'clock last night the match for $3,000, between JOSEPH DION, of this city, and MELVILLE FOSTER, of New-York, was begun in Mechanics' Hall, which was crowded almost to its utmost capacity. About sixty billiard players from the States were present, nearly all the prominent cracks of New-York being of the number. DION was umpired by his brother, OVERLAND, and FOSTER alternately by Messrs. C. O'CONNOR and JAS. E. BOSTE. Foster won the lead and in the second inning scored 75. Dion here got the balls together, and had made 105, when, in accordance with a special rule made before the game began, the referee refused him permission to drive the balls out of the corner. Dion demurred, and there was a delay of 20 minutes. At last he decided that he would play on, but under protest. A diagram of the balls was drawn up, and Dion's umpire announced that he would refer the matter to MELVILLE FOSTER. Dion refused to drive the balls away from the cross, Dion finished at 150. In the thirteenth inning he made a run of 206, which placed him at 406, while his opponent was but 121. The betting, which had been even, was now 150 to 75 against Foster. That player shortly afterward quickly, by one of 385, scored in superb style. Dion advanced him to 800, Dion being 718. On the thirty-third inning, when Foster stood at 1,119, Dion finished the game with run of 196. The average was 96.6. The playing on both sides was excellent. Dion was extremely lucky at times, and made several miscues, Foster not one. The game was at any time either man's, and the result more dependent upon luck than anything else.

A Protest from Boston Merchants against the Alabama Treaty.

BOSTON, Thursday, Jan. 28.

A petition to the Senate of the United States signed by Hon. GEORGE S. HILLARD and others against the consummation of the Johnson-Clarendon Treaty, has been placed in the Messenger's hands for signatures. The petition reads:

"The undersigned, merchants of and upon the streets of Boston, citizens by birth or adoption of the United States, under a Government to respect to the ordinary duties of neutrality and, claims of our own citizens upon the British Government for injuries committed, by British built, British manned and British armed vessels; by vessels and armaments having their origin, their equipment, the protection of the British flag and British and American ships upon the high seas without taking them into port for examination, and without any action being taken upon the part of the said British Government, which those assertions were laid before it, to prevent the same; have, on the contrary, those parties were permitted with impunity to depart from the British ports; and when the depredations fraught of one of them because of its name in the British Parliament, of which he was a member, he was received with cheers and expressions of satisfaction. This shows, in the opinion of your memorialists, the unfriendly disposition of the Government toward the Government of the United States."

Gen. Sherman Going to New-Orleans.

CHICAGO, Thursday, Jan. 28.

Gen. SHERMAN and his Secretary, Col. DAYTON, with their families, leave for New-Orleans to-day. The statement made yesterday that Gen. SHERMAN was daily expected from the Plains is unfounded.

A resolution, introduced in the Legislature yesterday, providing for the admission of members of the House elected from counties, the election returns from which were not counted by the Secretary of State, was tabled.

AUGUSTA M. ST. CLAIR, the lecturer, died at Salt Lake City in the vicinity, and

At Omaha dispatch says a large number of the Indians are hunting on the Republican. Acting Gov. HALL, of Colorado, has issued a proclamation warning the military and civilians from interference, as the Utes are friendly, and have a treaty with the Government.

A San Francisco Protest Relative to the Alaska Fur Trade.

SAN FRANCISCO, Thursday, Jan. 28.

A memorial to Congress was circulated in this city yesterday, and signed by many of the principal merchants, against the passage of Senator COLE'S Alaska bill, with the clause granting to the successors of the Russian-American Fur Company the franchises held by that Company previous to the transfer of that Territory to the United States, thus creating a grievous monopoly, and consigning the people of Alaska to a system of vassalage degrading to humanity.

Anti-Slavery Society Reunion in Boston.

BOSTON, Thursday, Jan. 28.

A large number of the members of the Anti-Slavery Society and their friends, assembled this evening at Horticultural Hall to have a social reunion preceding the last meeting of the Society, which is to be held to-morrow. The hall was crowded, and WENDELL PHILLIPS presided. Letters were read from JOHN G. WHITTIER and JOHN OLIVER, of Richmond. Speeches were made by WENDELL PHILLIPS, Gen. C. T. WALKER and others. A magnificent supper was served for the entire company.

Commodore Hugh T. Patterson Assaulted and Robbed in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, MD., Thursday, Jan. 28.

Commodore HUGH T. PATTERSON was attacked last night near his residence by three ruffians, knocked down and robbed of a valuable gold watch and a pocket-book containing $10. Commodore PATTERSON was in command during the war, and was with his ship at the fight between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac*. He is now on the retired list. The physicians say that he is dangerously if not fatally injured.

Republican State Convention Called in Virginia.

RICHMOND, Va., Thursday, Jan. 28.

The Republican State Central Committee has called a State Convention for March 2, to nominate candidates for State offices.

BOSTON, Thursday, Jan. 28.

The dress trade meeting called to assemble in Knowlton, Tuesday, has been postponed by order of the Commissioner until the assembling of the Ornamental Conventions in Memphis next May.

Miscellaneous Telegrams.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Jan. 28.—The annual meeting of the Cleveland and Mahoning Railroad Company was held yesterday. The stockholders voted to sustain the action of the directors in protesting against the transfer of the lease by the Atlantic and Great Western to the New Railroad. The new Board was authorized to take measures to receive the control of the road, it being ascertained that under the laws of Ohio, the Atlantic and Great Western has forfeited its lease of the Cleveland and Mahoning Road by attempting to transfer to a corporation outside of Ohio.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 28.—CHARLES D. CHAMBERS, a freight agent of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, formerly of Lockport, N. Y., attempted to commit suicide yesterday by cutting himself about the throat and breast with a knife. He was laboring under temporary insanity, induced by sickness with no hope of recovery.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 28.—It is reported by the friends of the Local Government that, although requested through the Lieutenant-Governor to send a Representative, with Messrs. HOWE and MCELLAN to Ottawa, they declined to do so. The Repeal League held a private meeting and appointed a Secretary and Council.

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 28.—A Woman's Rights Convention, under the auspices of the "Sorosis" Society, will be held here on the 11th of February next.

ANNA DICKINSON will be present. Mrs. STANTON and other advocates of women's rights are expected.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 28.—The Merchants' National Bank of Little Rock has not suspended. The reports are reported to be very hourly. The latter part of which fails on the Government and New-York.

WASHINGTON.

The Reconstruction of Georgia—A New Indian Department to be Made—Gen. Grant and his Wardens.

Special Dispatches to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 28.

The attitude of the State of Georgia and the probable action of Congress in regard to her representation in Congress is an hot beginning to attract notice. The Senate Judiciary Committee have already reported against the admission of her Senators and during the discussion of the Wimpy case Chimey contained abstracts were from that State in the Senate to-day, some important developments were made as to what senators many prominent Republicans are coming to. The action was to postpone this case until the Reconstruction Committee report on Georgia's claims and to reserve therefor, it was remarked by several that there was no knowing but that they might yet be obliged to unseat the six members who have been admitted. This will be acting the ball by the house in a very bold manner, and the proposition begins to startle some people. If the House Committee take the same ground as is taken in the Senate, there can be no other result. The Reconstruction Committee were instructed to-day, on motion of Mr. PAINE, to consider and report on this question of Georgia's representation at once.

THE INDIAN DEPARTMENT.

The Senate Indian Committee have finally arrived at some definite action as to what they will do about the proposed transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department. At their meeting to-day they abandoned the idea heretofore agreed upon of making the Bureau a separate Department, with a Cabinet officer at its head, and instructed the Chairman, Senator HENDERSON, to report a bill taking the management of the Bureau from the Interior Department, and putting it in charge of a Commissioner, directly responsible to the President, in the same manner that the Department of Agriculture is now conducted. The bill further provides that all Indians shall be put upon reservations as rapidly as possible, and while on such reservations shall be subject to the control of the Denominati. But all Indians who refuse to go on reservations, or leave them for hostile or other improper purposes, and all predatory and roving bands, shall be entirely subject to military control. Senator HENDERSON immediately prepared the bill and introduced it just before the Senate adjourned. It is looked upon as a just and practicable compromise between the measures for an entire transfer to the War Department, and the opposition to any transfer as they are. In connection with this subject Senator WILSON introduced a bill providing that all supplies required by the Indian Bureau shall be furnished upon requisitions thereafter by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, approved by the Secretary of War. Under the present system there is absolutely no check imposed, and this feature will materially improve the bill reported from the Committee.

GEN. GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS.

Gen. GRANT'S headquarters are becoming so largely besieged by visitors, most of whom simply call to pay their respects, and are not on important business, that he was compelled to give notice to-day that hereafter he would receive no visitors except between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock. Only by a strict enforcement of this order can time be adapted for the transaction of the necessary public business. About 10 o'clock to-day Gen. GRANT visited the Capitol, and was on the floor of the House for a short time. He did not ask for attention, and at times half almost a lobby with his friends.

THE ST. THOMAS TREATY.

Gen. ELLSWORTH presented the views of the Danish Government relative to the purchase of St. Thomas to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to-day, and the Committee have now the whole subject under consideration. The grounds on which the Danish authorities claim that the United States are bound to complete the purchase are not very satisfactory to the Committee, and the probabilities are that an adverse report will be presented on the subject.

THE OVERLAND MAILS.

The examination into the Wells, Fargo contract was continued to-day. Mr. BANCROFT Davies and Mr. OTIS, Secretary, gave their testimony. It was to the effect that no amount of capital and no force of human energy could prevent occasional delays in the mails at this season. The Company could carry from four thousand five hundred to six thousand pounds per day. Frequently no mail arrived by railroad for three or four days. Then twenty thousand pounds would come in at once, and as a matter of unavoidable necessity it could not all go forward at once, but all did go as rapidly as they could get it off. They further stated that if they had known the progress of the railroad was to be so rapid they would not have taken the contract at the present price. As they will have all the expense and hardship of the unprofitable Winter service, and none of the service of the Summer months, when expenses are less and service lighter. They also testified that no member of Congress nor any Government officer was interested in the contract, or held any of the stock of the Company.

THE ALASKA INVESTIGATION.

The Alaska investigation will be continued to-morrow by the examination of one A. W. ADAMS, a New-York witness.

THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

There was a long debate in the Senate to-day on the question of the Constitutional Amendment regulating the suffrage. FOWLER, of Tennessee, delighted the advocates of women suffrage by entering his protest against the passage of the amendment unless it included both sexes. The opposition endeavored to pin the Republican members down to that plank in the Chicago Platform which says that the question of suffrage was in the loyal States for the people, and in the Southern States for Congress, and that was about the strongest point made against the Bill. Pending discussion on the subject, the Senate went into Executive session, and the debate will be continued to-morrow, unless it should be postponed for the purpose of taking up the Finance bill of Mr. SHERMAN.

ARREST FOR CONTEMPT.

The House to-night directed the Speaker to issue a warrant for the arrest of HENRY JOHNSON, of New-York, for contempt, in having refused to respond to the subpœna of the New-York Election Frauds Committee.

THE INAUGURATION BALL.

Application was made to-day by a committee of citizens, to the Secretary of the Treasury, for the use of the unfinished north wing of the Patent Office for the purpose of an inauguration ball. The application was granted, so far as the Secretary was concerned. A precedent is found in the use of the unfinished north wing of the Patent Office four years ago.

ANNEXATION.

The streets are alive to-night with the buzz and whirl of the fashionable people. Half a dozen parties and receptions, and a grand soirée dansante at WILLARD'S are the attractions.

BRIDGING THE CONNECTICUT RIVER.

The Senate Post Office Committee reported to-day in favor of ratifying the action of the Connecticut Legislature allowing bridges to be built across the Connecticut River. It was the intention of the Committee to take up the subject of the postal telegraph system, but the discussion of other questions relative to steamship lines, principally occupied so long a time that there was no opportunity to hear the statements of Mr. CORNE and others of the Western Union Telegraph Company, who desire to be heard in opposition to the proposed change of the telegraph business of the country.

AN ORDER COMPLIMENTARY.

It will be interesting for your long-suffering patient, enduring, tax-paying New-Yorkers to learn that a requirement of the cost of the magnificent Treasury building with that of your new Custom-house, up to the present date, shows that a larger amount of money has been expended on the latter than on the former.

SHIPPING DESTROYED BY THE REBELS.

The Secretary of State has been requested by the House to furnish such information as may be in his possession relating to the destruction by rebel vessels during the late war of American vessels, giving the names, character, ownership and value of the vessels and cargoes destroyed or taken; also a statement of the damages sustained by the persons whose vessels and property were destroyed or captured.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS.

The meeting hour of the House for the last three days has been occupied by a general bill reported from the Pensions Committee, prohibiting certain restrictions in the granting of pensions. One of these restrictions virtually provides that every soldier's widow must prove, if required, that she is not a prostitute before a pension can be either granted or paid. A rather discussion attends the subject, as a matter of course, and the lack of morality and wisdom of the ordinance is being vigorously assailed.

THE SENATE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Senate held an Executive session to-day, but in accordance with the action of the caucus of Republican Senators a few days ago, none of the important nominations were taken up. The nominations recently sent in were referred to their appropriate Committees. There was a vigorous and spicy discussion on the order of business in the Senate. A Postmaster was confirmed for an unimportant town in the West, but beyond this nothing of interest was transacted.

Dispatches to the Associated Press.

NATIONAL BANK REPORTS.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 28.

The following is an abstract of the quarterly reports of the National Banking Associations of the United States, showing their condition on the morning of the first Monday in January, 1869, before the commencement of business:

Resources.

Loans and discounts	$649,095,788 84
Overdrafts	2,702,192 34
United States bonds to secure circulation	306,682,500 00
United States bonds to secure deposits	24,852,900 00
United States bonds and securities on hand	24,990,900 00
Other stocks, bonds and mortgages	20,092,022 82
Due from approved reserving agents	56,822,611 04
Due from National Banks	28,021,624 06
Due from other banks and bankers	7,702,099 62
Real estate, furniture and fixtures	16,209,797 76
Current expenses	3,207,077 92
Premiums	1,648,288 72
Checks and other cash items	1,442,690,099 15
Bills of other banks	14,662,000 00
Fractional Currency	1,102,000 00
Specie	32,000,000 00
Legal tender notes	97,000,732 00
Compound interest notes	2,220,000 00
Three per cent. certificates	23,000,000 00
Total	$2,859,660,923 32

Liabilities.

Capital stock	$413,982,921 00
Surplus fund	51,150,926 72
Undivided profits	83,772,719 60
National Bank notes outstanding	304,200,987 00
State Bank notes outstanding	2,724,966 00
Individual deposits	992,592,194 49
United States deposits	12,142,021 97
Deposits of United States Disbursing Officers	2,261,646 71
Due to National Banks	81,446,999 02
Due to other banks and bankers	36,924,545 74
Total	$2,859,660,923 32

There are 1,642 banks in active operation, the reports of which are included in the above abstract, in addition to which there is one bank in Oregon and one in Montana from which no reports have yet been received.

RECEIPTS FROM CUSTOMS.

The Customs receipts from Jan. 15 to 20, inclusive, are as follows:

Boston	$320,957
New-York	2,021,975
Philadelphia	122,177
Baltimore	220,000
New Orleans, from Dec. 21 to 31	24,000
San Francisco, from Dec. 20 to 31	85,025
Total	$2,460,197

VIRGINIA RECONSTRUCTION.

G. H. WHITTEMORE concluded his argument this morning before the Reconstruction Committee, against the removal of the disabilities from judicial and other officers in Virginia, and against the plan of the Committee of nine. Col. J. E. BALDWIN spoke briefly in defence of the Virginia Legislature of 1865. He said the labor measures were adopted after consultation with the principal officers of the Freedmen's Bureau, and the vagrancy law was copied from that of Pennsylvania. JOHN AYMERS, a negro from Lynchburg, addressed the Committee in opposition to the Committee of nine. This closes the argument, and the Chairman announced that the Committee would hear no more verbal statements in relation to the removal of political disabilities. All future applications and arguments must be in writing.

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

Representative BLAINE, from the Committee on Appropriations, in the House this morning reported a bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June 30, 1870, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and made the special order for Monday next, after the morning hour. The bill appropriates $900,000 for recruiting and transportation of troops instead of $100,000, as was done last year, and reduces the appropriations for commutation of officers' subsistence $120,000; for payments to discharged soldiers, for clothing not drawn, it appropriates $500,000, instead of $300,000, as last year, and makes an additional appropriation of $6,500,000 for subsistence in kind for regular troops and employés; for transportation, purchase and hire of horses, mules, &c., it appropriates $6,500,000, instead of $4,000,000, as last year. $1,000,000 is appropriated for the repair and improvement of the armory at Rock Island, Ill., one half of which amount is to be devoted to the construction of a bridge connecting Rock Island with the cities of Rock Island and Davenport, making the total sum appropriated by the bill $48,196,800, instead of $33,063,000, being the amount appropriated last year—an increase in the appropriation this year of $10,132,877.

A DELEGATION OF INDIANS.

Several Indian Chiefs, representing the Kiowas, Sac and Fox tribes, have arrived in this city. The Chiefs are attired in the true aboriginal style, with paint and tomahawks, and are here to treat with Government in regard to the sale of certain lands now owned by the above-named tribes, and which the Government is desirous of purchasing.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

THIRD SESSION.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 28.

The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, recommending Congress to make immediately an appropriation for the relief of certain starving and destitute Indians on the Upper Missouri River. He also presented the credentials of Hon. JOHN SCOTT, Senator elect from Pennsylvania, which were read.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

Mr. CORNELIUS presented a petition from the citizens of Danville, N. Y., for woman suffrage in the District of Columbia. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. TRUMBULL also presented two petitions for equal suffrage. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MORGAN presented a memorial of citizens of New-York and Ohio for the passage of a law for the protection of new fruits. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. TRUMBULL presented a remonstrance of wholesale grocers of Chicago, against any increase of duty on refined sugar. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Mr. ANTHONY, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of Capt. CHARLES HUNTER, of the United States Navy, which was read the third time and passed.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Claims, reported a bill for the relief of Reuben M. Hoskinson, appropriating to him $500 for a destroyed United States bond. The bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. PATTERSON, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill in relation to the appointment of engineers in the navy from the late reconstructed States. The bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. FOX, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill in favor of deepening and widening the harbor of the Midway Islands, and gave notice that he would move to amend the Naval Appropriation bill by inserting $50,000 for this purpose. The report and accompanying documents were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. GOODRICH introduced a bill for the relief of CHARLES GRADY, of Redwood.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill to facilitate operations for the Indian Bureau, which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WILLIAMS introduced a bill to provide for the payment of bounties to soldiers and sailors, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. WILLIAMS also introduced a bill to amend the act to provide for the better organization of the Judicial Department, and to punish and prevent certain disorders therein, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HOWARD introduced a bill to provide for the payment of bounties to soldiers and sailors, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. YATES introduced a bill to incorporate the National Railway and Loan and Trust Company. Referred to the Committee on Railroads.

Mr. EDMUNDS introduced a bill to provide for the construction of lines of telegraph between New-York, Boston, Baltimore and Washington under the direction of the Post Office Department. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported favorably the resolution providing the appointment of a committee of five on adjournment. The resolution was adopted.

TAXES ON PASSENGERS.

Mr. CHANDLER, from the Committee on Commerce, reported back, with amendments, the bill to prevent the collection of illegal imposts and taxes on railway passengers, under color of State authority. The amendment makes the penalty for such offences a fine of from $500 to $2,000, and provides for carrying such cases to the Supreme Court on writs of error.

THE WORKINGMEN'S UNION.

Mr. MORTON renewed his motion to take up the House bill for the relief of Wm. MCGARRAHAN, indefinitely postponed at the last session, for the purpose, he said, of having the question determined whether the claim should be paid in gold or its equivalent to its final relection, or only to a rejection for the session.

Mr. WILLIAMS explained his previous connection with this bill, and censured Mr. MCGARRAHAN with having misquoted in a printed letter laid on the desks of Senators, a vote from "Onslow's Manual," for the purpose of making it appear that "Onslow" as to the power of a committee to send for persons, papers, &c., on a public petition. The question of order was discussed until the expiration of the morning hour, when the special order of the day (the constitutional amendment) was postponed to allow the discussion to be continued.

Finally the motion to take up the bill was carried by a vote of yeas 27, nays 19.

Mr. MORTON then moved to send a message to the House for the papers connected with this case. The motion was carried.

Mr. HOWARD moved to reconsider the House resolution requesting the President to furnish the Senate with the names of the officers of the army who were engaged in the riots in Baltimore in April, 1861, and the circumstances of the arrest of persons charged with treason, which was agreed to.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the House bill to provide for the appointment of Commissioners to examine claims for property taken for the use of the army in the late war, with amendments, and asked for its immediate consideration.

Mr. SUMNER objected, and the bill went over.

THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

The special order of the day, the constitutional amendment, being again before the Senate,

The amendment, as originally introduced by Mr. HOWARD, is in these words:

ART. 15. *No State shall deny or abridge the right of any citizen to vote and hold office on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.*

SEC. 2. *Congress shall have power to enforce the provisions of this act.*

The Judiciary Committee reported as a substitute for the first section the following:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Mr. SUMNER then offered an amendment to the second section, which was adopted, proposing to add to the language in the thirteenth article: "That Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Mr. SUMNER then made a brief speech in advocacy of the proposed amendment as reported from the Committee, which he regarded as a culmination of a thirty years' contest, and altogether too just and moderate a measure to be strenuously or clamorously by any eloquence of his.

Mr. HOWARD, one of the Judiciary Committee, moved to strike out the first section by the Committee was then adopted.

Mr. BUCKALEW moved to add the following as my additional section:

The second clause of the first section of article 2 of the Constitution of the United States shall be amended so as to read as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in a mode of the people thereof qualified to vote for Representatives in Congress, a number of electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress; but no Senator or Representative or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States shall be appointed an elector. The electors shall meet and vote in the States and the Congress shall have power to regulate the manner in which such electors shall be chosen by the people.

He said that the amendment proposed to make two changes—first, to require the election to be chosen by the people instead of leaving it to the Legislature of the States, as they now are, and to be chosen by districts, to authorize Congress to prescribe the mode of their selection by the people.

Mr. WILSON favored the amendment.

Mr. SUMNER was inclined to favor it, but preferred that it should be submitted separately.

Mr. SUMNER said he knew that the Proposition of the Chicago Convention, which was indorsed by the head of the name of ALEXANDER HAMILTON to-morrow, but he did not think that the great question of equal suffrage should be complicated with any other amendment, however meritorious.

Mr. BUCKALEW replied that the first part of his amendment related directly to the question of popular suffrage.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked him how he proposed to have his amendment submitted for ratification, whether in connection with the other or separately.

Mr. BUCKALEW answered separately.

Mr. RUSSELL urged that so important an amendment should be seen in print by Senators before voting upon it.

Mr. SUMNER repeated his objection to its being considered as a part of the Constitutional Amendment reported by the Committee.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN thought it strange he should object because, in his judgment, the original amendment would be strengthened by the association with it of Mr. BUCKALEW'S amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN said that the latter might be very meritorious, but he was opposed to associating it, an entirely new proposition, with the amendment reported by the Judiciary Committee, which has been long and fully discussed by Congress, the Press and the people.

Mr. FOWLER spoke against precipitation, favored the amendments reported by the Committee, but could not see the propriety of extending the right of suffrage to Chinamen and negroes and withholding it from the women of the country.

Mr. BUCKALEW urged the Senate to pass upon his amendment. It was a perfectly plain and simple proposition, upon which the most prejudiced intelligent could not fail to understand. He said that if any of Senators were in favor of extending the right of suffrage to women, they could vote for the amendment, and if any were opposed to negro suffrage they could vote against it. He would oppose the amendments because it proposed to continue, under further constitutional sanction, the worthless and odious system of Electoral Colleges, while he (Mr. SUMNER) believed that if any change were to be made in the mode of choosing the President it should be by the election of Electors by districts, and keep him always by the direct vote of the people.

Mr. BUCKALEW agreed with the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. SUMNER) that the Electoral Colleges were worthless, and, he would add, pernicious, but said that under this proposed amendment, Congress could at any time change the system.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked him whether under his amendment Congress would not have power to authorize the representation of minorities in the Electoral Colleges.

Mr. BUCKALEW said he thought it would.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN remarked that the question was a very important one, and one which required careful consideration, and, therefore, he hoped that this amendment would not be hastily adopted.

Mr. BUCKALEW at this point withdrew his amendment, and afterward introduced it as a joint resolution, which was referred.

Mr. WILLIAMS offered a substitute for the report of the Committee, but the Chair declared it out of order.

Mr. DAVIS offered an amendment proposing that all constitutional amendments should be submitted for ratification directly to the people. The Radical Party, he said, professed to be very democratic and, therefore, the right of the people to vote for democratic propositions. But he knew they would not, because they knew that if they did, their purposes and projects—negro suffrage and all—would be overwhelmingly defeated.

Mr. HOWARD suggested that to submit the amendments to the decision of the people would be to violate the Constitution.

Mr. DAVIS—Well, I propose to change the Constitution.

Mr. WILSON said that the Senator from Kentucky, (Mr. DAVIS,) and everybody else, knew that the struggle for equal rights for all classes had always been unpopular, and had been waged against great vested interests and against prejudice, the result of generations of wrong and oppression. He had no doubt that the negro suffrage question had cost the Republican Party a quarter of a million of votes; but no matter how unpopular the great struggle might be at the moment, whether it brought victory or defeat, no matter how severe it cost, it was the duty and the purpose of that party to press on until it should have made the Southern citizen of the United States stand with every other. That duty could not be done by an ostrich policy—burying its head in the sand and thinking it was not seen. The question was not how it would be in a position of some illogical inconsistencies.

Mr. HENDERSON said that his own personal regard to the question of extending the right of suffrage to the colored population were unchanged, and he did not at this time desire to express his views upon the subject. He recognized it as a question of the future. He was willing to let the question be presented to the people, and how they would decide now was that of the proper submission as to whether the proposed constitutional amendment, the Republican party had committed itself to the principle of equal suffrage as terms in the Fall elections, was pending, expressly disavowed it in the Chicago platform, and was demanded by every consideration of public safety, of gratitude and of justice, and even by the party and safety, while the question of suffrage in the equal States, because of the existence of slavery in those States, yet now they proposed in reference to other States not one single principle involved in the present amendment, and in no sense representing the will of the people of the States, to do. The party that could be guilty of such a monstrous inconsistency as this was unworthy the confidence of the people. The Republican party had never advocated either of the propositions now before the Senate. They were thrown upon the country without any party action, and could not have meant that they were to vote with it directly, because that was not constitutional way of doing so, and the Chicago platform declared that no amend or change the Constitution was necessary.

Mr. DAVIS withdrew the amendment.

Mr. HENDERSON, at this point, reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, the House bill to remove the Indian Bureau to the War Department, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, creating a Department of Indian Affairs.

Mr. SUMNER moved to amend the amendment by striking out the Executive Session, which was made by Mr. ROSCOE CONKLING and carried, and at 5:30 o'clock P. M., the Senate went into Executive Session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BLAINE, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the Army Appropriation bill, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole and made the special order for Monday next after the morning hour. It appropriates $48,196,800.

GEORGIA RECONSTRUCTION.

Mr. PAINE, from the Committee on Reconstruction, reported the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Legislature of Georgia, in session at the capital of that State, has by its action declared certain persons duly elected members of the Senate and House of Representatives of that State ineligible to hold office under the Constitution of the United States, and has proceeded to declare the seats of such persons vacant, and has proceeded to fill the same by the election of other persons; and

WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States have heretofore declared that the Legislature of Georgia, in the matter of the reconstruction of that State, has failed to comply with the requirements of the acts of Congress in relation thereto; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature of Georgia has, by the action above recited, attempted to change the basis of representation in that State established by the Constitution of the United States, and has thereby rendered it impossible that the State of Georgia should be represented in the Congress of the United States; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Reconstruction be instructed to inquire into the facts relating to the recent action of the Legislature of Georgia in the premises, and report to this House whether the Legislature of Georgia is entitled to representation in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. BROOKS moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Reconstruction, with instructions to report forthwith.

Mr. PAINE replied that the Committee had already considered the subject, and, by unanimous vote, had agreed to report the resolution.

Mr. BROOKS inquired whether the Committee had also considered the propriety of the proposition.

Mr. PAINE replied that the resolution had received the unanimous vote of the Committee, and, if so, would necessarily have to be reported.

Mr. BROOKS suggested further whether the Committee was not now before the Reconstruction Committee, and, if so, what necessity there was for the resolution.

Mr. PAINE was proceeding to say that the jurisdiction of Georgia properly was before that Committee, but the House promptly

The Speaker inquired whether the previous question, which Mr. PAINE had moved, was withdrawn.

Mr. PAINE said it was not.

The SPEAKER—Then the debate is out of order.

The previous question was seconded and the resolution was adopted—yeas 127, nays 37.

Mr. CHANDLER moved to lay the preamble on the table. Disagreed to—yeas 70, nays 90.

The preamble was then adopted.

MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS.

Mr. ELDRIDGE presented a memorial of new merchants, manufacturers and importers of Troy, on steel bars, doubting the existing duty on saw steel. Also of other consumers of steel. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. BLACKBURN presented a petition of owners and masters of vessels in Connecticut, praying for the

...being removed, and which was within the power of the Assessor to remove.

3. That the assessment made by Hyatt was an official act within the scope of his authority, and presumptively correct, and that the burden of proof is on the plaintiff to show that it was fraudulent.

4. That inasmuch as the plaintiff have failed to show that the assessment was erroneous, they cannot recover.

5. That the action of the Assessor was judicial, and cannot be reviewed.

6. That in order to maintain this action, the plaintiffs must show that those against an assessed were carried by them.

7. That the assessment, whether erroneous or not, was a sufficient warrant for the action of the Collector.

8. That an assessment, regular in form and circular as to a person within the jurisdiction of the Assessor, is a protection to the Collector for his official acts in collecting the assessment.

Mr. Fulton, for the plaintiff, said that even according to the statements of opposing counsel the power of the Assessor to make a special assessment rested upon his ascertaining that there was a deficiency in the assessment roll, and that he ascertained this from knowledge of any points ascertained by them. Had plaintiffs which was not accounted for by them. He denied the proposition that the burden of proof was upon the plaintiffs as against the fact that there was as much property as there was. Where appeal is taken from Assessor Mauris Dimock sat with the Assessor, and at the earlier days and hours fixed by the statute. He also maintained that under the statute as it stood at that time, the Assessor had no power to make the special assessment, as the property was not liable. That the power of review and of equalizing appeared to be confined to property which actually was on the assessment roll, and that which was not upon it was not subject to taxation. That the assessment could not equalize property which had not been assessed at all. That the roll, because of such fact as that, became void. That the statute of limitations was a bar to the action. That the assessment was void because it was not made by the Assessor in person, but by his deputies. That the assessment was void because it was not made by the Assessor in person, but by his deputies. That the assessment was void because it was not made by the Assessor in person, but by his deputies. That the assessment was void because it was not made by the Assessor in person, but by his deputies.

The Court held that the Assessor had the power to make a special assessment, and that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover. The Court held that the Assessor had the power to make a special assessment, and that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover. The Court held that the Assessor had the power to make a special assessment, and that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover. The Court held that the Assessor had the power to make a special assessment, and that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, JAN. 29, 1869.

Amusements this Evening.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
IL TROVATORE (Third Act) and LA PERICHOLE. Characters by Mlle. Fryer, Mlle. Rose, Mlle. Tinder, M. Artot, H. Leslie, M. Rosard, H. Guilden, M. Hamilton and others.

WALLACK'S THEATER.
HER FIRST FOOTSTEP. Characters by Messrs. Lester Wallack, Gilbert, Holland, Blaisdell, Young; Mrs. Rose Eytinge, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Clara Jennings, and others.

BROUGHAM'S THEATER.
Lessee and Manager.....Mr. J. BROUGHAM.
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, and THE DRAMATIC REVIEW FOR 1868. Characters by Messrs. John Brougham, Stoddart, Hale, Leslie, Eldridge, Miss Rose Eytinge, Mrs. W. Wheatley, Miss Fisher and others.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.
Proprietor and Manager.....Mr. WILLIAM WHEATLEY.
AFTER DARK; OR, LONDON BY NIGHT. Characters by Miss Lotta, Messrs. Mac Darrell, Mason, Rankin, Vera Kruz, Clarendon and others.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.
Proprietors, Messrs. Hoskins and Sweetser.
HUMPTY DUMPTY. Characters by Messrs. Geo. L. Fox, Mr. G. K. Fox, Mlle. Lavarre, Geo. B. Peacock, Miss L. Harrison, Mr. F. Mordaunt and others.

UNION THEATER.
LORD CHESTER. Characters by Messrs. Rose Eytinge, Miss Pearsall, Messrs. Conway, Baker, Sutton, Conor, Foster, and others.

NEW-YORK THEATRE.
FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD. Leading characters by Mr. Edwin Forrest.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATER.
Proprietor, Manager and Sole Lessee.....Mr. WM. WOOD.
Stage Manager.....Mr. H. PHILLIPS.
BLACK EYED SUSAN. GRAND EXHIBITION OF CURIOSITIES. Open day and evening.

BROADWAY THEATER.
Proprietor and Manager.....Mr. JOHN BROUGHAM.
THE VIOLIN-PLAYER. Characters by Messrs. Lawrence Barrett, Wm. Davidge, Mrs. Jane A. Gray and others.

SOWERS' THEATER.
THE OCTOROON. Characters by Messrs. Sowers, Lingham, Hall, Mrs. Sowers, Miss Lingham, &c. &c. A beautiful cast.

THE TAMMANY.
GRAND COMBINATION OF MUSIC, PLAYS, ACROBATIC FEATS, &c.

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EQUESTRIAN AND GYMNASTIC PERFORMANCES.

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To Advertisers.

Advertisers in the TIMES are requested to bring their notices in as early on Friday in the day as possible. Inserted after 8½ o'clock, it will be impossible to classify them under their proper heads.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

EUROPE.

The Church difficulties in Spain, which led to the assassination, recently, of the Governor of Burgos, has induced the Government to issue a proclamation declaring the equality of religious sects before the law.

The latest news from Paraguay is to the effect that Lopez had been driven from his strongholds of Angostura by the Allies and forced to retreat to the interior.

CONGRESS.

The Senate yesterday passed two or three private relief bills which were reported from the Committees. Several bills were introduced and considered. Discussion on the Mediterranean Fenian Relief bill exhausted the morning hour, the question being whether the indefinite postponement of the bill at the last session was equivalent to its still pending. Finally the Senate voted to take up the bill for consideration. The suffrage amendment to the Constitution was taken up, and Mr. STEWART spoke in favor of its adoption. Mr. BUCKALEW offered an amendment providing for the manner of choosing Presidential Electors. After a lengthy debate regarding the propriety of withdrawing Mr. BUCKALEW's proposition in connection with the suffrage question, Mr. BUCKALEW withdrew his amendment. He then introduced it as a joint resolution, and it was referred. The discussion was continued at length, after which the Senate went into Executive session and then adjourned.

In the House the bill appropriating $48,190,000 for the expenses of the army was reported from the Committee, and made the special order for Monday next. Mr. BAKER reported from the Reconstruction Committee a preamble reciting the present political condition of Georgia, and a resolution instructing the Reconstruction Committee to inquire and report what further action should be taken by Congress respecting the representation of that State in that body. Mr. BAKER moved the previous question, until action on the resolution was refused—yeas 107, nays 36. Mr. DAWES, from the Committee on Elections, submitted a report relative to the Georgia contested election case, which in effect declares that to J. E. CHENEY voluntarily gave aid and comfort to the rebels during the war, he is not entitled to a seat in Congress; and that as the contestant, JOHN H. WILDER, did not get a majority of the votes cast, he was not entitled to the seat. After considerable discussion, the consideration of the report was postponed till the third Tuesday in February. The bill to amend the Pension laws was taken up. Mr. BOLMAN moved to recommit the bill with instructions to strike out the material section of the bill, which abolished the withdrawal of pensions from female pensioners who are living a life of prostitution or concubinage. Mr. FARNSWORTH stated that the Commissioner of Pensions had especially called attention to the fact that the number of widows having pensions who were living in open prostitution was increasing, and the Committee had deemed the second section of the bill necessary. Messrs. FARNSWORTH, SUMNER, and others spoke in opposition to the motion of the bill, denominating it as unjust to the recipients of pensions. The bill was postponed till Tuesday next. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the consideration of the bill which appropriates $2,121,200 for the Indian Bureau. After some discussion the Committee rose without disposing of the bill. Mr. POLAND gave notice that he would to-day move the previous question on the suffrage amendment. A recess till 7:30 o'clock was taken. In the evening Mr. BUSH made a speech on the suffrage question. General debate followed in which Messrs. SHANKS, BOUTWELL and MCKEE participated, after which the House adjourned.

GENERAL.

In the State Senate, yesterday, a bill was introduced providing for the extension of Madison-avenue from its intersection with East Twenty-third to East Seventeenth-street, so that it shall begin at a point on the northerly side of East Seventeenth-street. A bill was also introduced for the election of a new Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island. In the Assembly a resolution was offered asking for the appointment of a Special Committee to investigate the action that has been taken by the Police of New-York toward forcing out the survivors of Mr. Rogers. The Committee on Contested Seats and their sessions at the Metropolitan Hotel in city city, beginning to-morrow forenoon.

The Railroad bill, restricting passenger fare to three cents a mile, has passed the Illinois House of Representatives, and is now before the Senate. As the bill now stands it is provided that the act shall not be so construed as to release the Illinois Central Railroad from the payment of a percentage of its earnings into the State Treasury.

Four colored men and a white man, charged with the crime of stealing the body of a Col. WILLIAMS from a tomb about seven miles from Knoxville, N. C., were taken from the jail in that place, where they were held for trial, a few days ago, and murdered, by a band of thirty or forty citizens of the place. No arrests have as yet been made.

The band of desperadoes who have been operating in Robeson County, N. C., for some weeks past, are still at work. On Saturday evening last they attacked the house of Reuben Rose, about two miles from Lumberton, and wounded him and a guest named R. R. Wade, probably mortally, and ransacked the house, obtaining, however, but about $300. Mr. ROSE was his twenty years' sheriff of that county. Gov. HOLDEN, it is said, ordered the apprehension of the murderers at all hazards, but the order has not yet been obeyed.

The keeper of the jail at Wisconsin, Me., while making the round of the cells, yesterday morning was attacked by the prisoners, overpowered and handcuffed before. Three of them made their escape, making good their escape, and are still at large.

The State Workingmen's Association, was in session in Albany yesterday. A bill, which will be presented to the Legislature next week, was read and approved. It makes it lawful for mechanics to hold meetings without incurring the peril of indictment for conspiracy. The greetings of prison labor, apprenticeship, &c., were discussed, and the Convention adjourned to this morning.

A delegation, including Hon. Simon CAMERON, are to visit Atlantic City in a few days, to examine the beach, with the view of requesting of Congress the necessary aid in supplementing the sea-wall, &c. Improvements in the inlet front, along which the ocean is making serious inroads. Over $100,000 of the beach opposite the lighthouse have been washed away within the past few years.

A generous friend of African colonization, residing in England, has recently sent $2,000, "to be laid out in enabling persons in America to whom it is unfortunately without that they have the highest welfare of Africa at heart." One-half of the amount was sent to Mr. WILLIAM COPPINGER, of Washington, and one-half to Rev. THOMAS S. MALCOLM, of Philadelphia. Approved persons will probably start from Baltimore, in the Colonists about the 1st of May. The Colonists is now on her return voyage from Liverpool, and is expected to carry out a large number of emigrants.

Western papers report that the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company has made an arrangement with the Hastings (Wis.) Road, by which the latter is to refuse to carry wheat at any price. This is to compel the shipping of wheat to Minneapolis, Minn., instead of to Hastings.

The Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association have resolved to hold an exhibition of mechanical and industrial products, in Boston, during the present year.

Gov. GEARY, of Pennsylvania, has signed the death warrant for the execution of Gaskill MOORE, on the 26th of February, for the murder of Thomas SUTTON.

The Government Commissioner has accepted another section of the Union Pacific Railroad, including the one thousandth mile post. The Central Pacific Road is completed 157 miles west of Sacramento, Cal.

The Boston merchants are signing a petition to be sent to the Senate, protesting against the ratification of the Alabama treaty, on the ground that it proposes to place on an "equality the claims of British subjects and American citizens. The former, the petition pretentiously says, were the result of disagreements regarding the ordinary modes of neutrality, while the latter arose out of acts of piracy and bloodshed, sanctioned, encouraged and even perpetrated by British subjects.

A Vigilance Committee has been formed in Johnson, Spencer and Bullitt counties, Ky., and thieves have been warned to leave.

One of the Arion Carnival parties, preparatory to the great masked ball on the 4th of February, took place last night at the Germania Rooms. A burlesque opera was given with the usual comic songs and addresses, and the ball followed the proceedings. The Fenimore Mannerchor gave also, last evening a very brilliant masked ball at the Academy of Music. Opposite, at Irving Hall, Company K, Seventy-first Regiment, gave their annual festival, which was very well attended and gave much pleasure to those present.

The journeymen job printers now on a strike held three meetings yesterday at Rooms 32 and 34 East Broadway, and received various reports, including an accession of names of firms willing to pay the rates demanded. On the other hand a number of employing printers held a meeting at the Astor House, and affirmed a determination not to comply with the terms demanded.

The Chamber of Commerce yesterday adopted the resolutions of Mr. GRINNELL, in relation to the suspension of specie payments.

Mr. GEORGE W. QUERET delivered a lecture on Dickens last evening, at Tenner's Lyra Hall.

Coroner FLYNN and his jury visited Blackwell's Island yesterday, and there interrogated Mariana HEINRICHS, the mistress of the James RYDER who was last arrested. She gave some important testimony regarding his whereabouts on the night preceding the murder of ROGERS, and on the day of the tragedy.

The sailors of this City who are engaged in a movement designed to secure an advance in their wages, held a large meeting at Military Hall last evening, and adopted a scale of prices, which they resolved rigidly to enforce.

ISAIAH S. DAVIS shot himself dead yesterday afternoon at No. 139 Crosby-street, where he had a quarrel with a woman of bad character.

By the arrival at this port of the steamship Alaska we are in receipt of late news from South and Central America. Our Panama correspondence, including the usual summary of intelligence, will be found in another column.

Cotton was less active but firm yesterday. Flour and Wheat were quiet and tending downward. Corn was in fair demand at rather steadier prices. Oats were brisker and firmer. Provisions and Groceries attracted less attention. The Wool sale passed off satisfactorily. Exhibits dull.

Ex-President Johnson.

It seems to be generally understood that Mr. JOHNSON has no thought, on retiring from the Presidency, of subsiding into the inactivity and insignificance of Ex-Presidents PIERCE and FILLMORE, but that he will rather imitate the example of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, and plunge again into active political strife. The papers of Tennessee regard it as certain that he will be a candidate for Governor, and probably for the United States Senate on the expiration of Mr. FOWLER's term; but it is suggested that he may prefer to run for Congress.

It seems to be deemed quite certain that he will plunge at once, as a candidate for something, into the thickest of the fight, and his characteristic pugnacity and the ability he has always shown in this direction, render it quite certain that any fight in which he is engaged will be a hot one. As a matter of course he will be an out-and-out Democrat, though he will probably take the liberty of engrafting a few principles of his own upon the party creed. That part of his late Message relating to the national debt was doubtless intended quite as much for future political operations, as for the action of Congress. Mr. JOHNSON says very freely to all who talk with him about it, that his views are certain to become popular, and that four years hence there will be no party in the country in favor of paying the debt in any other way than that which he has suggested.

All Mr. JOHNSON's political positions and prognostics were won by hard fighting—not only against the opposite political party, but generally by an equally vigorous and determined contest against the leaders of his own. Those leaders were the champions and special defenders of slavery and looked upon him as a representative of the class of poor and aspiring whites. They felt it to be there foes, for their interest to keep him under politically;—but he always made fight, and generally with success. He always claimed to be the special champion of the rights of labor and the special enemy of the aristocratic classes. He had just the qualities for a successful demagogue, and will probably renew his old contests in his own State, with a good many advantages derived from enlarged power and experience in political affairs. He clearly has no intention to eliminate after he ceases to be President—nor will anything else in his political neighborhood.

The Pauper Laborer of England.

For a good many years past the "pauper laborer of England" has been the bugbear of our political economists. His spectre has especially haunted our manufacturers. Whenever a branch of business had increased production until the markets of the world were glutted, or whenever a manufacturing company had received so much protection that they had lost the economy and energy which people manifest who are compelled to take care of themselves, the ghost of the pauper laborer of England has always been evoked for their relief. Whether duties were low or high, whenever a branch of industry failed, or other countries drove us out of the field by their sharp competition, the true cause was always this baleful spectre. He would not down. Even as in the French wars the bloody-bones used in England were traced to the malign influence of NAPOLEON, so all our economical evils for the last quarter of a century have been attributed to this unhappy "pauper." Even so intelligent a correspondent and statistician as the "Bateman Observer" falls under this superstition, and sees a horrible vision of "the pauper laborer" behind all our troubles.

Before attempting to lay this ghost, we must note the almost ludicrous contrast which this spectre makes in its appearance to the manufacturers of continental Europe. They equally dread it; they are also haunted by it; but there, instead of the abstracted form of the half-starved laborer, it assumes the lively aspect of the English capitalist, or rather he becomes a mysterious, unseen and powerful combination of malign spirits—the English manufacturers—who are in unholy league to ruin all German and French producers. In this instance, the pauper laborer is, in fact, in Germany, Belgium and France, but the manufacturers of these countries are equally clamorous with our own to have a high tariff against England.

Only three months since the woolen and cotton manufacturers of Lower Austria petitioned for a much higher duty on their woolens and cottons than 15 per cent. ad valorem, and yet the Austrian operatives receive 35 per cent. less wages in average than the British, which is lower in proportion than ours are with the English. In Russia there is the same call for high protection, and yet the wages of labor in cotton manufacture are about one-fifth in Russia of what they are in England. In France, too, there is great opposition to the continuance of the Cobden treaty, and a call for higher duties by the manufacturers, and yet the excess of wages in England over France and Belgium is, at least, *twenty-five* per cent. In general, it may be said that the excess of wages in gold in the United States over England, is but little greater than the excess of England over the Continent.

Seen from the West, the producer who has given England her economic superiority, is the ghostly form of the pauper; seen from the East, he is the well-fed and over-paid hireling of a conspiracy of capitalists. There evidently must be something wrong in one of these beliefs. Where is the fallacy?

It is truly unfortunate for our manufacturers that their great rival is not a "pauper laborer." Pauper labor is just what they need not fear. Pauper work is stupid, careless, wasteful and ignorant. It is *skilled* labor which doubles them—economical, careful and intelligent labor. But how is this labor paid? In answering this question we have only to consult the tables in Mr. WELLS' report, which will be a compendium of information for economists for a generation to come. The average excess of wages (in gold) in the cotton manufacture of the United States over that of Great Britain in 1868, was 26.7 per cent. In one special branch —"the roving frame-tenders"—it was only 5 per cent. In woolen manufacture the average excess was only 24.53 per cent., though in carpet-mills it reached 59 per cent. In firearms the excess was 56 per cent; in iron foundries and machine-shops, 58 per cent. In unskilled labor in iron manufacture the average weekly wages here were $6.50, against $4.50 in Great Britain, or about 50 per cent. excess, while the difference between England and Belgium is greater, being about 100 per cent.

It is manifest that a scale of wages from 28 to 56 per cent. less than the high rates prevailing here is not the rate of pauper labor wages. But, more than this, we assert that the average rate of wages in the principal branches of manufacture of the two countries *is now about equal in purchasing power*. The number of dollars paid per week to a workman is of no consequence. The main question for him is, what will the dollars buy? Take, for instance, the "drawing frame-tenders" in a cotton mill. In America, they receive $9 44 (gold) per week; in England, $3 75. Here, if they occupy a six-roomed tenement, they pay an average of $24, gold, per annum; if a four-roomed tenement, $63; if in New-York, they cannot pay less than $24 (gold) for three small rooms in a tenement-house. In the English cotton districts, their average rental will be only $42 per annum for a house, and in Sheffield, fifty-six per cent. of their houses will be under $35 per annum, and only twenty-six per cent. command $50 and upward. Here manifestly in the important matter of house rent, the purchasing power of the English cotton operative's wages is at least fifty per cent. greater than here. In every article of consumption, manufactured in England, which can still compete with our own manufacture in American markets, the English operative plainly enjoys in his wages a purchasing power fifty per cent. greater than the American, as the British article must pay an average duty of forty per cent. here, from which the English workman is freed. Even in fuel, the British operative is equally well off and often better off than our own.

Only in food is he inferior in condition to the American operative, but so productive is his industry that he purchases his flour and meat and butter at but little lower rates. This is true of common skilled labor; but if we take the higher classes of skilled mechanical labor, it is notorious that it is often better paid in England than here.

This labor is constantly leaving the United States to return to Great Britain. The greatest want in all our factories now, is that of high skilled labor. It is very clear that the labor which competes with us now in Great Britain is no longer "pauper labor," and that the causes of our (comparative) manufacturing failure do not lie in our high rate of wages. England could not at once surpass the Continent by means of high wages, and the United States by low. The true explanation we shall not seek here; but let us at least, no longer hear the old fallacy constantly cited as every new manufacturing failure, that "the pauper labor of England has ruined us."

How to Save Quite a Number of Millions of Dollars.

We see no pretext why, till we can see no prospective use of a regular army of *forty-five thousand men*, costing *forty-three millions of dollars* per annum.

The Army Appropriation bill, which was reported to the House yesterday, was made the special order for Monday next; and in the meantime Congress has been receiving testimony and obtaining information on the subject from army officers and other parties. We hope it will be discussed fully, thirty, dispassionately and intelligently.

If it be found that the state of the country requires the people to support a large and costly military establishment, then of course the argument is ended, and we shall accept the situation as cheerfully as possible, notwithstanding the bad condition of the finances, and the severe burden of taxation.

But, if it be found that, without injury to the public peace or the public interests, the army can be reduced by fifteen thousand men, or by ten thousand, or by five thousand, or by a single regiment of soldiers, then we urge Congress to make the reduction as soon as possible, and thus save the industry of the country from so many millions of dollars of taxation.

When Congress proposed to reduce the army, in the early part of last year, Gen. GRANT asked that no steps might be taken at that time in that direction, and offered to take such steps toward reduction as were authorized by the existing law. Congress acceded to the desire of GRANT, who forthwith proceeded to diminish and retrench as far as was then feasible.

GRANT did not desire the army to be suddenly and hugely cut down at that date for two reasons: firstly, an important campaign against the Indians was projected for the Fall and Winter season; and secondly, the Southern States were agitated by the revolutionary utterances of BLAIR and HAMPTON, by the demonstrations of the Ku-klux, and by the prospect of a revival of the "Lost Cause" through the election of SEYMOUR.

There is an entire change now in both of these particulars. The Winter campaign against the Indians has been successfully closed, and Gen. SHERMAN himself reports the assurance of a permanent peace. Peace and order prevail in all the Southern States,—if we except the local disturbances in Tennessee and Arkansas, which are controlled by the civil authorities and militia of those States,—and in Texas, where a small military force will doubtless be required for some time. So far, therefore, as the arguments against reduction last Spring are concerned, they do not now apply, and cannot be urged with any show of reason.

We know that under the practical policy now being carried out by Gen. GRANT, the army is being reduced by the stoppage of enlistments; and we know that, in any event, it will number several thousand fewer men at the close of the year than it now numbers. But still we agree with several of the leading officers of the army in believing that, beside this, there might be a peremptory reduction of ten or fifteen thousand men,—which would save some eight or ten millions of dollars to the Treasury and the people. And we know that in the present state of things, Congress cannot afford to overlook such a retrenchment.

Spain and the Papacy.

The Spanish Revolution has entered upon a new and most important phase. For the first time since the outbreak of the insurrection, the Government and the Church have come directly into collision. The Government, as we learn by the cable, has determined to put an end at once to the *imperium in imperio* claimed by the Church. All the libraries, archives and works of art hitherto belonging to the Church are to be seized by order of the Government. The Governor of Burgos, while taking an inventory of the property of the cathedral of that city, was assassinated, and it seems that the Government are in possession of evidence strong enough to warrant the arrest of the Dean and Chapter, on the charge, we presume, of being accessory to the crime, or at least of having neglected to take proper measures for the discovery of the assassins. The popular animosity toward the Papal Nuncio has been openly manifested in Madrid, and the Government has taken the important step of withdrawing its official recognition of his diplomatic powers. That is to say, diplomatic relations are formally broken off between the existing Government of Spain and the Holy See, and that under circumstances which leave but little prospect of their resumption, under any Government likely to be approved by the Spanish people in their present temper.

The collision between the Government and the Church was inevitable from the first, and it is scarcely a matter for regret that it has been brought to an open issue so soon. The entire influence of the hosts of ecclesiastics who so long formed the mainstay of Queen ISABELLA's tottering throne has been thrown on the reactionary side during the recent troubles in Spain, and there is but little ground for supposing that they would ever have been induced by friendly means to accept in good faith any settlement of affairs likely to prove satisfactory to the people. The priesthood of Spain, too, were so thoroughly under the control of the authorities at Rome that it was absolutely necessary for the safety and freedom of the State that their power should be curtailed. They persisted in interfering with political matters, and have reaped the consequences. It is for their own good, individually, that the Government has taken a firm and determined attitude from the first. The sooner they are brought to see that they must bow to the will of the Spanish people, and cease to act as instruments of a foreign Power, striving to perpetuate a system of religious intolerance against which that people have unequivocably pronounced, the better for themselves as well as for Spain. It is clear that the Provisional Government is in no mood for trifling, and that the people are fully prepared to support it in the matter.

A Scandalous Bill to Organize Slander on Women.

There has been some strong talk in Congress during the last two days in connection with a bill for the amendment of the Pauper law, one of the sections of which directs the withdrawal of pensions from female pensioners who are living a life of prostitution or concubinage. When this section was before the House on Wednesday, it was opposed by Mr. SUMNER, who characterized it as the most monstrous and disgraceful proposition he had ever seen in any bill, inasmuch as it proposed to make the Court of Pensions the judge of the morals and virtues of widows of soldiers of the Republic, and required them to prove a negative. Mr. FARNSWORTH took a like view, declaring that it would be a disgrace to the statute book and an outrage to the widows of soldiers, and that it could never have emanated from any section of the country but from the frigid State of Maine. When the question was up again yesterday, Mr. FARNSWORTH, of Maine—who reported the bill to the House—defended the obnoxious section, and quoted the Commissioner of Pensions as having reported that the number of soldiers' widows having pensions, who were cohabiting without marriage, refusing that solemn legal rite, and living in open prostitution, was increasing, and that the Government should not be unwillingly placed in the strange attitude of offering a premium on immorality—as the pension of a soldier's widow ceases on re-marriage, but is continued if she assumes the status of a concubine.

We do not think Messrs. SUMNER and FARNSWORTH used too strong language when they characterized the bill as disgraceful. Mr. SUMNER touched the root of the argument in opposition, when he said the bill made the Court of Pensions the judge of the virtue of soldiers' widows, and required them to prove a negative. It required that they should show they were not prostitutes or concubines. How is the matter to be conducted? First, there is a charge from some source or other that a certain pensioned widow is unchaste, and then she is summoned to disprove the accusation. But how is the charge to be investigated? Is the Government to accept as conclusive the widow's denial of the charge,—for, certainly, she is not likely to admit it,—or are men to be appointed to investigate the facts and report upon the same? There is no doubt that the charge would be made in thousands of instances. There is hardly any pensioned widow but has some enemy who would like to take revenge upon her by stopping her pension on such a charge. And when it was falsely made—as it no doubt would often be falsely made—the widow would not only be subjected to the insult of the original accusation, but would have to submit to the humiliation of attempting to show what is almost impossible, in the nature of things, to be shown. We can conceive of the perpetration of no greater outrage upon decent womanhood and decent widowhood.

When this proposition to organize slander is again brought up—as it will be in a few days—we trust the House will vote it down peremptorily and decisively.

Mr. Sumner on the Senate.

The prediction which we launched a year ago (and which a wise contemporary in Western Massachusetts then thought to evince a thorough lack of prescience in Eastern politics) that neither of the busy B.'s—BANKS, BUTLER and BULLOCK—then buzzing about the honey-pot of the Massachusetts Senatorship, would taste its sweets, but that, on the other hand, the "successor" of Mr. SUMNER would be no other than Mr. SUMNER himself, turned out to be true.

Mr. SUMNER was then under a temporary cloud, whence he has emerged as a bright and shining light, as of old; and what we then said holds true now, that, in the long run, he does essentially represent the majority of the Republican Party as it exists in Massachusetts.

Indeed, the return of Mr. SUMNER to his fourth successive term in the United States Senate is in many respects honorable to that body, to the State that sends him, and to the Senator himself. So much may be frankly owned even by the very large body of the American people, and by the large body, too, of his own party, who do not, and can not, follow him in all his vagaries, or accept him as a sound political guide. A Senate of Sumners would indeed be a very alarming affair; and yet a Senate, without the element which SUMNER represents, would certainly fail of expressing the sentiments of a considerable body of the American people.

To be guided, controlled and irresistibly driven on by the typical "reformer" is one thing for the machinery of Government; to feel the full influence of the "reformer," yet with all the natural counterpoise, fair with the "fly-wheels," as it were, of conservative forces, is quite another. Of Mr. SUMNER himself, also, it may be truthfully and not disparagingly said, that he has been somewhat, if slightly, moved by that conservatism which, even in the most enthusiastic and tumultuous of spirits, comes with years and very long official experience.

Mr. SUMNER's wide and varied learning, often verging into pedantry; his careful study of important questions, often leading to ill-timed vexation over the slap-dash judgments of some fellow-members, who have heard of a great question only during the five minutes before their opinion is expressed; his philanthropic spirit, sometimes going to mawkishness on the one hand or to malignity on the other; his long public experience, which sometimes expresses itself in an unfortunate assumption of superiority or of arrogance—after all, these are traits of power in the Senate Chamber. There is much to be said for rotation in office; there is much also to be said for the twenty-four and thirty years' terms of such able, if sometimes, many as Senator CLINTON and SUMNER.

Governor Hampton and Mr. Pollard.

We publish in another column the text of Mr. R. A. POLLARD's letter to Collector SIMMONS, of which a summary has already been received by telegraph, concerning his appointment to a position in the Custom-house. The letter is very sharp, and does not present the Collector's action in a very favorable light. According to Mr. POLLARD's statement, Mr. SIMMONS repented of his appointment when he found it attracted comments from the Press which were likely to interfere with his confirmation as Minister to Russia, and induced Mr. POLLARD to send in his resignation, promising that his salary, however, should not be stopped. Mr. POLLARD evidently regards himself as having been deceived and misled by the Collector, of whom he accordingly speaks in terms more forcible than complimentary. As it seems to have been the remarks of the Times which first called Mr. SIMMONS's attention to the damage the appointment was likely to do him, we may say here that we objected to it wholly on the grounds of political fitness and propriety, and not at all from any personal feelings against Mr. POLLARD, and have from any desire to persecute him and put obstacles in the way of his obtaining a living. There were hundreds of worthy applicants for positions in the Custom-house, men who had served the country and lost their health and their limbs in defending the Union against rebellion, and who had a fair claim on the Government for employment. Why the Collector should go to Richmond and select for his special favor, in the beginning of office, a man who had been an conspicuous and an energetic and efficient in waging war upon the Government under which Mr. SIMMONS held his position, as Mr. POLLARD had been, we could not understand,—nor can we now. We are not sorry that our contemporary had the effect of calling Mr. SIMMONS's attention to the character and probable results of his action; though we wish he could have acted upon the case with more straightforwardness than Mr. POLLARD's card implies to him.

MINOR TOPICS.

A correspondent writes us in vigorous and vehement condemnation of the lavish appropriations made by our Common Council, for celebrating WASHINGTON's birthday, for donations to charities and kindred objects, to which they have not the shadow of right to devote the public money. We agree with him entirely; but when he says "our tax-payers will not stand this much longer," we beg to say we think he is mistaken. They will reelect every one of those members in spite of their prodigate waste of the public money. "The thing that *has* been is the thing that shall be." How does our correspondent suppose the tax-payers are going to help themselves?

There were yesterday—as will be read in our reports—some new developments bearing upon the connection of LOGAN with the Rogers murder.

A very good illustration of the extreme vigilance which prevails in Congress over public expenditures is reported from Washington. Among the appropriations asked for, the Committee found one providing for paying the "Superintendent of the Crypt." Anybody was aware that there was such a thing as a "crypt" connected with the Government, still less that it had or needed a Superintendent, inquiry was made, and it was found that the appropriation had been regularly made for the last fifty years. Further investigation showed that, soon after Gen. WASHINGTON died, Congress provided for the construction of a vault under the Capitol, to be called the Crypt, in which his remains were to be deposited. A light was to be kept burning near it, and a Superintendent was appointed to watch it, as he has been doing daily for the last fifty years! Meantime, WASHINGTON's body was not deposited there, and everybody, Congress included, forgot that any such thing was in existence. The only memorial that exists to keep the memory of the affair alive has been the annual appropriation for the Superintendent. Twenty years after the close of NAPOLEON's Russian campaign, a French sentry was found on duty at Moscow, his superior officer having forgotten to relieve him from duty. The Circumlocution Office and Tite Barnacle, Esq., are not, it seems, confined either to DICKENS' novel or to the English Government.

The season seems be very unhealthy for persons implicated in whisky frauds. The attacks of sudden and severe illness,—so severe that their trials have had to be postponed,—are numerous and constant. The second trial of BLAKESLEE *et al.* had be put off because BARNEY, who is involved with BLAKESLEE, is sick. The Attorney-General has again interfered and directed a postponement of the trial of DAVIS, indicted for perjury in the crusade against Collector BARLEY. FULLERTON's case has also been pushed off again for some reason or other, but is likely to be brought on soon, unless sickness should again interfere to prevent.

Several persons have been arrested in Rochester on charge of getting up a false report of the death of a man whose life they had insured, for the purpose of defrauding the Insurance Company. In England quite a number of cases have occurred in which, after insuring the lives of certain parties, the conspirators have actually murdered them in order to collect the amount of the policies. This goes a step beyond our American swindlers in reckless crime; the risk is somewhat greater also; but the whole business of using life insurance as a means of swindling ought to be nipped in the bud by severe punishment of the actors in it.

Our Panama correspondent suggests an alteration in Gen. BURNSIDE's bill—which has passed the House and is now before the Senate—for reorganizing the diplomatic service in South and Central America. He suggests that the arrangement by which there is to be but one Minister Resident to Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, and another for Costa Rica, Nicaragua and San Salvador, is not exactly a proper geographical one. If a change is to be made, one Minister should cover the five Central American States, viz.: Honduras, Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. One man would do for Venezuela and Colombia, and another for Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, and perhaps Chili ought to be joined to the latter three. The Senate will doubtless consider this suggestion.

The brother of the murdered ROGERS has been paying his regular wages ($7 a week) to the colored boy who is held as a witness in the House of Detention. This is an excellent example for imitation in cases of parties detained as witnesses. There is often great hardship to innocent individuals locked up in the House of Detention, because they happened to be cognizant in some way or other of offenses against the law.

Col. FORNEY, of the Philadelphia *Press*, says women was velocipedes in Paris, from which people opine that they will run them here. We should not be at all wonder. After adopting the corrugated pads that go pad, pad, padding on their persons, we firmly believe the poor deluded ladies would go in for anything preposterous, and shall not, therefore, be surprised to see some of them on that paces between two wheels—or off it—as the case may happen; though when it does, we trust we shall not be there to see. Mr. BUNNELL, in a late lecture, said he should not wonder if a thousand velocipedes were sold before Mr. FORNEY'S. Gilmore on a Sunday. Fancy a "light brigade" of about a hundred young ladies charging up Grand-street to attend morning service!

Mrs. SURRATT is a sort of "Dragon of the Hesperides." She will not allow any of the young and charming countrymen to "lost" the Treasury of the United States, if she can help it; and, indeed, if she could fix her claws in some of the grand frankcoolers prowling around the lobby, she would do the poor State some service. But she seems to be too harsh on that child of genius, Miss VINNIE RAM, who only picks up a few crumbs, as it were, such as may enable her to make that genius ornamentally useful. At the same time, it is hard to justify Mrs. SURRATT's sharp insinuation, that Government are won by the young lady's prisoner charms and blandishments. This is to do more disgrace than is necessary, even to the most attractive and ingenious minx.

Mr. BONNER is doing a deal of good in his way. All he very much to introduce into public schools like with the best and most practical ideas of the day, and to encourage every species of progress. He has rendered great service to society, and especially to the ladies, by his introduction of the sewing machine, and by his ingenious method of preventing snow quietly from the streets by melting it and carrying the water off through the culverts. We are now informed that a prominent citizen of Brooklyn, connected with City railways, proposes to have machines constructed immediately, to be used for the same purpose. If, newly extended that this principle invented is correct. An estimate of the working capacity of these machines has been made by ingenious mechanics, and it is believed that by their use all the business streets of the City can be promptly cleared of snow at a cost not exceeding that which is paid for sweeping them during the Summer. If this shall prove to be the case a great desideratum will have been achieved.

The Redemption Clause of the Virginia Constitution.

RICHMOND, Va., Saturday, Jan. 23, 1869.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

In grouping the principal evils of our proposed Constitution, in your leading editorial of yesterday, you charge that it "creates a homestead exemption valid against all debt hereafter contracted."

As there are six classes of indebtedness, to three of which the exemption does not extend at all, and applies only partially to the other three, it would seem that the TIMES is slightly mistaken in asserting that our Constitution has created an "exemption valid against all debt."

It is true that the fundamental reasons of certain debts "homestead exemption," but there can be no legal or constitutional objection to this provision; for existing various judicial constructions, the Court of Appeals of this State have held that the exemption of property from sale for debt is a matter in the Legislative discretion, and that there is nothing in the Constitution of the United States which prohibits the Legislature from enacting a law which exempts property from seizure for debt, though not exempt at the time the debt was contracted.

S.

Strike out "all," and the force of our statement remains essentially unchanged. There are moral and equitable objections to a grant thus exempting property to a large amount from debts heretofore contracted, after the manner of the Constitution referred to by our correspondent.—ED.

The Official Revenues—The Tax on Whisky.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

The detailed statement furnished from time to time by the Internal Revenue office, relative to the collections of the tax on distilled spirits, are calculated to mislead the public as to the amount of the real load from the operation of the present law, producing the impression that the gigantic frauds formerly prevailing have been suppressed, and that the Government is collecting the full tax.

The *Herald* of Monday last gives the following as the collections from alcohol spirits, as official for five months of the present fiscal year, and also the number of distillers that have reported. The number of distillers is complete only for two months:

Months.	No. of Distillers Reporting.	Amount Collected.
July	202	$2,760,000
August	202	2,717,000
September	202	2,811,000
October	202	2,870,000
November	200	1,934,100
Total		$15,090,100

The amount collected in the previous year, during the same time, from the same number of distillers, was $8,142,000, being an increase of $6,950,000. If the increase continues as it is supposed it will, the total receipts during the present will, it is thought, reach from

FINANCIAL.

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JAY COOKE & CO.

No. 20 WALL-ST.,

CORNER OF NASSAU-ST., NEW-YORK.

We buy and sell at the Stock Board current prices, and keep on hand a full supply of

GOVERNMENT BONDS OF ALL ISSUES,

that customers may not be put to delay and cost of

STOCKS, BONDS AND GOLD.

We have added to our office a Retail Department for the accommodation of the public demand for investment in and exchanges of Government Securities, the purchase of GOLD and INTEREST COUPONS, and the sale of INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS.

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U. S. BONDS

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DEPOSITS received, subject to check at sight, and interest allowed on the same at the rate of three per cent per annum.

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSITS issued, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum.

COMMERCIAL NOTES made on all points in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Purchase and sale of Bills of Exchange, and all commercial securities transacted for cash.

ORDERS promptly executed for the purchase and sale of Gold; also, Government and other Bonds.

LOANS negotiated.

NEW-YORK AND NEW-HAVEN RAILROAD COMPANY.

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS.

The terms of the contract entered into by the Directors of this Company, authorized and approved at a meeting held on the 20th inst., and in pursuance of a vote of the Company present at that time, the Directors will proceed to receive subscriptions for the increased capital stock of the Company, to the amount of $3,000,000, at the rate of par, payable as follows, viz: 20 per cent on the subscription, and 20 per cent every sixty days thereafter, until the whole amount is paid in. The books for the subscription will be opened at the office of the Company, No. 15 Nassau-st., on Monday, the 29th inst., at 10 o'clock A. M., and will be closed on the 10th day of February next.

Scrip certificates will be given, at the option of parties subscribing, for fractional portions of full-paid stock, which will be issued when the scrip certificates are presented in sums of one hundred dollars each.

Payments of instalments may be made at any time before the same become due, on the payment of interest from the date of payment to the time when the instalment will become due.

The Directors reserve the right to reject any subscriptions.

Subscriptions will be received from stockholders only until the 10th day of February, after which time they will be open to the public.

WILLIAM H. SHIPP,
SIDNEY HARTNETT,
NATHANIEL THAYER,
Trustees.

New-York, Jan. 19, 1866.

MILWAUKIE AND CHICAGO RAILROAD COMPANY.

A Dividend of $2 per share, actually from assets of the Company, has been declared, and will be paid at the Office of the Company, No. 52 Wall-st., on the 15th of February, at the banking office of FREDERICK SCHOONMAKER & SONS, No. 47 Exchange-place, to Stockholders of the Company, as they stand registered on the books of the Company at the close of business on the 31st inst. Transfer books will be closed from the 31st inst. to the 15th of February, inclusive.

By order of the Board of Directors.

FRED. SCHOONMAKER, President.

MERCHANTS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK OF TROY.—Notice is hereby given to the stockholders of this Association, that the Directors of the same have ordered a dividend of Ten per cent on the capital stock of said Association, payable on demand to the holders of the same; and that said Association will be closed on the 31st inst. and 1st prox.

And the Directors of the said Association hereby notified to present said notes and other liabilities against the Association on the day of closing, for redemption.

By order of the Board of Directors.

Dated Troy, Dec. 30, 1865.

ISAAC MERRITT, Cashier.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, the above dividend was declared payable as above.

This Bank has reorganized as a State Institution and will continue business at the same place, the office of The Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank of Troy.

SOWLES, SPROUSES & CO.,

BANKERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

No. 16 Wall-st.,

No. 15 William-st., New-York,

No. 72 Washington-st., Chicago.

Make advances on Consignments of Grain and such other property as may be offered, and will buy and sell Gold and Foreign Exchange at the best rates possible.

Liberal Advances on Shipments of Grain to our agent will be made when desired.

AUGUST BELMONT & CO.,

Have Established Credits for their customers with

MESSRS. ROTHSCHILD,

in Paris, London, Frankfort-on-the-Main, Vienna, and their correspondents in all principal cities of Europe; also, make Telegraphic Transfers between

CALIFORNIA AND EUROPE.

PACIFIC RAILROAD OF MISSOURI.

Having purchased at Gold prices Bonds of the PACIFIC RAILROAD OF MISSOURI, due Feb. 1, 1887, I am prepared to offer the same at the RATE OF AMERICA Bonds, and recommend them as a safe investment. Also, for sale Government bonds.

JOHN J. CISCO, Banker,
No. 59 Wall-st.

STOLEN FROM THE OFFICE OF THE METAL COMPANY, No. 17 Wall-st., New-York, Ill. the following Bonds and Bonds of Coupons: Ill. Central Railroad Bonds, Chicago, Ill., $4,000; Cook County, Illinois Bonds, Nos. 1,000, 1,001, 1,002; Cook County, Illinois Bonds, No. 1,003; Ill. Central Railroad Bonds, Nos. 1,004, 1,005, 1,006, 1,007, 1,008, 1,009, 1,010, 1,011, 1,012, 1,013, 1,014, 1,015, 1,016, 1,017, 1,018, 1,019, 1,020, 1,021, 1,022, 1,023, 1,024, 1,025, 1,026, 1,027, 1,028, 1,029, 1,030, 1,031, 1,032, 1,033, 1,034, 1,035, 1,036, 1,037, 1,038, 1,039, 1,040, 1,041, 1,042, 1,043,

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REDUCED RATES TO CALIFORNIA AND CHINA.

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FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENSTOWN

ALBANY.

An Alleged Illegal Gas Contract—Extension of Madison-avenue—A New Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island—The Rogers Murder—The Contested Seats.

From Our Own Correspondent.

ALBANY, Thursday, Jan. 28.

The proceedings in the Senate to-day derived their chief interest from the reading of a report of Adjutant-Gen. Townsend, transmitted to the Senate in answer to a resolution of inquiry relative to a certain gas contract entered into between the Gas Commissioners Council of Ordnance (PALMER) and the "Roberts Breech-loading Company," of Illinois Island. It appears that PALMER contracted with the aforesaid Company to alter 10,000 Springfield muskets belonging to the State into breech-loaders—the contract price to be $10, work being $7 for each musket. The contract was duly ratified by Gov. Fenton, and two thousand or more of the muskets were transferred to the breech-loading manufactory. It is claimed by the present Adjutant-General and his Democratic associates in authority that Gen. PALMER had no authority in law, to make such a contract, and accordingly it has been repudiated by the present State Administration, and Gov. Hoffman has given orders that the Company or whom the muskets were in their hands. Two hundred copies of the report were ordered printed.

EXTENSION OF MADISON-AVENUE.

Senator BRADLEY introduced a bill for the extension of Madison-avenue, its present width, from its intersection with Mott Haven-lane to East Seventieth-street, so that the avenue shall commence at a point on the northerly side of East Seventieth-street. The bill provides that in taking any land for the purpose of said avenue as thus extended, the right of the owners of such land shall be taken only for the purposes of a public highway, and the avenue shall never at any time be appropriated to the purposes of a railroad without the consent of the owner, and other full compensation therefor.

Mr. BRADLEY also offered a bill for the erection of three asylums for the insane on Blackwell's Island, and the issue of bonds to the amount of $500,000, redeemable in twenty years, to raise money for that purpose.

Nothing of interest was done in the Assembly. Mr. LE RAY's resolutions asking Congress to amend the Reconstruction Acts was called up, and, on motion of Mr. SICKLES, made the special order for a week from next Tuesday at an evening session to be held for the purpose.

THE ROGERS MURDER.

Mr. SICKLES offered a resolution, premised by a long preamble, stating the inefficiency of the Metropolitan Police, for the appointment of a special committee to investigate what action had been taken by the aforesaid Police toward ferreting out the murderer of Mr. ROGERS. It was laid on the table.

CONTESTED SEATS.

The Committee on Contested Seats are to hold their sessions at the Metropolitan Hotel, New-York, commencing on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. The first case taken up will be the claim of Mr. HAWKINS, of Richmond County, to the seat now held by Mr. FRANCIS. A. H. WARNER, Esq., appears as counsel for the contestant, and ROSCOE C. WARNER for the present occupant. The case of MOSES KEYSER, Democrat, contesting the seat of WHALEN, Democrat, (both of New-York,) is set down for Monday morning next.

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THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.... ALBANY, Thursday, Jan. 28.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. GRAHAM—To authorize any life or fire insurance, savings or guarantee loan company or savings bank, to invest their funds in bonds issued by any incorporated village or city of this State.

By Mr. PALMER—To prevent the introduction of contagious and dangerous diseases among domestic animals, and to prevent the sale of diseased animals, and appointing Gen. M. S. PATTERSON, of Onondaga, LEWIS F. ALLEN, of Erie, and JOHN STANTON GOULD, of Columbia, Commissioners to act for five years, at a salary of $5 per day and traveling expenses, to carry out the provisions of the proposed law.

By Mr. TRACEY—For the relief of HENRY I. SHEPARD, of Rensselaer, for canal damages.

By Mr. WILLIAMS—To facilitate the opening of streets in New-York, by permitting the Judges of any Court of Record, upon the petition of a party interested as owner or agent, to appoint Commissioners of the Central Park or Commissioners of general relief, to assess the damages for opening streets.

By Mr. BUNNEMANN—Relative to the accounts of the Allegheny County Poor-house.

By Mr. TWEED—To permit the Society of Poor Widows to hold real estate to the amount of $200,000.

By Mr. STRAHAN—To create a public fund to be known as the City Lunatic Asylum stock, of $500,000, to provide for additional buildings for lunatics in the City of New-York. Also, to extend Madison-avenue from East Twenty-third-street, in a direct line to East Seventieth-street.

By Mr. PIERCE—Relative to the purchase of supplies for the support of the poor in Kings County.

By Mr. O'DONNELL—To allow certain towns in Queens County to issue bonds and take stock in the Carthage, Watertown and Sackets Harbor Railroad.

By Mr. STANBRIDGE—To confirm acts of officers of the town of Oppenheim, Fulton County.

By Mr. MUNSON—To incorporate the New-York Mont de Piete Association for Savings and Loans, same as first corporators, JOHN BELDEN, CHARLES H. SIDE, JOHN HALSTED and WILLIAM H. KELLOGG.

By Mr. FISHER—To authorize the Albany and Vermont and Railway Company, and naming as corporators ALFRED M. WOOD, GEORGE G. RUTGERS, JAMES ESSEX and others, with a capital stock of $6,000,000. The Company may construct a railway from the northern boundary of Kinderhook-street, commencing in Hudson-street, through Stockport, Columbia County, to Hillsdale and Pittsfield, Mass., with the right to connect with the Southside Railroad. The Company may also extend the track from Hudson-street and Atlantic-avenue to the East River, under the soil as far as practicable.

By Mr. VAN VOORHIS—To constitute a Board of Education of Methodist Episcopal Church, and to authorize the town of Manheim to obliterate a bridge over the creek.

By Mr. MCGRAW—To repeal acts for the construction of an experimental line of railway to New-York City and Westchester, passed April 22, 1867.

BILLS PASSED.

To legalize acts of JAMES GUZMAN, Jr., Notary Public. To legalize acts of Justice JAMES JOHNSTON, of Lewis County.

To permit the Fulton Manufacturing Company to reduce the number of Trustees.

To authorize a free bridge over the Susquehanna River, between the towns of Union and Vestal in Broome County.

Mr. MURPHY offered a resolution requesting the Comptroller to furnish to the Senate a number of certificates of 1862. Carried.

Mr. CLAFLIN offered the following resolution, which was ordered to lie:

Resolved, That it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, to inquire whether it is in accordance with fundamental law, and not in interference with vested rights, for a resident of the town of Port and New-Haven in the State of Connecticut, that is duly authorized by the State of New-York at any greater rate than is done passengers in the State of Connecticut, and also done passengers in the State of Connecticut, and also done freight and passenger trains in such a manner as to cause discrimination against the people of the State of New-York; and that if the said Committee shall be of opinion that such legislation be legal and proper, that it report a bill.

Adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. BARKER—To facilitate the construction of the Gloversville, Mayfield and Northville Railroad. Also, to aid in the construction of the Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville Railroad.

By Mr. BOOTH—To amend the laws relative to the village of Mohawk. Also, relative to the Herkimer and Illion Railroad.

By Mr. TOWNS—Relative to the construction of bridges over the Newtown Creek, in Queens County.

By Mr. HASBROUCK—Declaring Tompkins Park, in the City of New-York, a public park, and to provide for its maintenance.

By Mr. AVERY—To provide that all pedlers or persons intending to travel on foot shall pay $20 for one year's license; with a single horse, $50; two or more horses, $100.

By Mr. COOK—To annex part of Springwater, Livingston County, to Naples, Ontario County.

By Mr. ADAMS—To improve town of Butler Mills, Oswego County.

By Mr. MAGNER—To incorporate the Lady Washington Association of Hempstead, Queens County. Also, to amend the laws relative to the public roads from Newtown, Queens County, to Hempstead. Also, relative to deeds and documents in the County Clerk's office of Westchester, Queens County. Also, to alter the map of the Hunter and Van Alstyne farms in Newtown, Queens County. Also, to amend the laws relative to the construction of a bridge over Newtown Creek.

By Mr. MILLER—To amend section 185 of the Code of Procedure. Also, relative to the completion of the Willard Asylum for the Insane in Ovid.

By Mr. FLEIS—To permit all classes of mechanics, journeymen, tradesmen and laborers to form associations for mutual aid and protection.

By Mr. TAYLOR—To create a harbor master of the Cities of New-York and Brooklyn, and remit to Isaac Taylor Johnston, Samuel Sloan, Jeremiah P. Robertson, John S. Williams, David Dows, Seymour L. Husted, Francis W. G. Bellows, Cornelius K. Garrison, George McClellan, Ambrose Snow, the Mayors of New-York and Brooklyn, and the Comptroller of the former City as a Board to have exclusive control of all wharves, piers, bulkheads, slips, &c., in said cities. The Board may appoint a counsel at a salary of $5,000; attorney, $3,500; Treasurer, $3,000; a Secretary, $3,500; Superintendent, $2,000; Assistant Secretary, $2,000, and a President $5,000 per annum.

By Mr. GLENN—To legalize the proceedings of citizens of School District No. 12, in Macedon, Wayne County.

By Mr. LAWRENCE—Authorizing the Port Chester Savings Bank to make deposits in any incorporated banking association or National Bank. Also, to incorporate the Temperance Society of Mount Vernon, Westchester County.

By Mr. ROOT—To permit WM. W. BOWMAN, HENRY I. MINOR and others to establish the New-York Oak Company, with a capital stock of $100,000.

By Mr. HYNDMAN—Relative to the [illegible] of County Treasurer.

By Mr. GARNER—To enable the town of Albion, Oswego County, to pay bounties.

By Mr. BENNER—To provide for the Fort Edward Railway to Lake George.

By Mr. DAVIES—To declare [illegible] a misdemeanor for any person to keep a lottery, or to offer for sale any persons to keep a lottery, or to offer for sale any persons to keep a lottery, or to offer for sale any persons

The New-York Times.

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WASHINGTON.

The Investigation of the New-York Custom-House Frauds.

Debates in Congress on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment.

Passage of a Bill in the Senate for the Reduction of the Army.

Special Dispatches to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 29.

The Treasury officials are engaged in examining the claims of the thousands found in the New-York Custom-house. The investigation thus far shows that they are probably greater than at first supposed, and may possibly reach $1,000,000. It is estimated that one-half of the above named claims, judging from the character of the papers on file here, are bogus. The fraud has been carried on for two years with boldness and impunity, and is consequently strange that it has not sooner been discovered.

THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

The debate on the suffrage constitutional amendment in the Senate to-day was of a very able character, and brought out the best talent for that body. It is not often that the affairs there tend to a spirited controversial debate between such leading men as BOUTWELL, SUMNER, SHERMAN, HOWARD, JAMES R. DOOLITTLE, GRIMES, PATTERSON, and EDMUNDS. The discussion of to-day was almost wholly confined to these gentlemen, and it progressed so far, that nothing but the inclemency of the time prevented a vote on the proposition and the amendments thereto, to-day. Judge EDMUNDS came out with one of his brilliant rhetorical speeches in support of his amendment, which takes the very broad ground of universal suffrage everywhere, black or white, Union or rebel.

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge or deny to any male citizen of the United States of second ward and over twenty-one years of age, the equal exercise of all the elective franchise, subject to such restrictions only as may be imposed in like manner upon all electors in the State whereon he shall have actually resided for a period of one year next preceding such election. Except such of said citizens as shall hereafter engage in rebellion or insurrection, or who may have been, or shall be, duly convicted of treason or other crime of the grade of felony at common law.

Mr. SHERMAN'S amendment provides that no State shall enforce any law or regulation requiring any property or religious test, nor other disqualification, except for participation in rebellion. Mr. BOUTWELL moved the previous question on an amendment of his own, providing that in addition to the prohibition of any discrimination on account of race or color, there shall be no test of education, religion or property. This was rejected by 27 to 6, without the yeas and nays. The indications are that the Senate will confine itself to the simple proposition reported from the Committee, which only prohibits discrimination on account of race, color, or previous condition of slavery. A vote is to be taken in the Senate on the amendments to-morrow. The more question was debated in the Senate to-day, and the feeling there in reference to the scope of the Amendment appears to be the same as in the House. The Senate is to-day took a wide range, and the old question of States' Rights occupied much of every Republican's time. GARRETT DAVIS ventured on a little prophecy that a Democratic Congress would destroy the Republican Party, which merely invoked moral influence, Senator PATTERSON advocated woman suffrage, but his amendment will not get many votes. The debate will probably be closed to-morrow and the vote taken.

THE REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.

Major-Gen. HANCOCK was before the House Military Committee to-day, and was examined on the subject of reducing the staff departments of the army. He gave it as his opinion that it was practicable to consolidate the quartermaster's, commissary and pay departments all into one. He said the functions of these departments assimilated to each other in a great measure, and he himself had performed, on some occasions the duties of officers of all three grades. With the exception of Gen. HUMPHREYS, Gen. HAZLITT is the first staff department officer to express the opinion that such measures of consolidation in the army are practicable. The Senate passed a bill which came from the Military Committee, aiming at a partial reduction of the regular army. It refers principally to officers of the lower grades, and, among other provisions, enacts that the grade of Regimental Commissary shall be abolished; that fourteen military bands be discharged; that the term of enlistment be five years, and that only fifty Second Lieutenants shall be appointed in the army annually. An amendment was adopted providing that it shall be unlawful to fill the two vacant Brigadier-Generalships until the prohibition is repealed.

THE DIPLOMATIC APPROPRIATION BILL.

The Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was reported to the Senate to-day, with that clause in the House bill which provides for the consolidation of the South American Missions omitted. The items are reduced in some of the estimates and increased in others, so that the figures are substantially the same as those which passed the House. It is very probable that the Senate will pass the bill in its present form, leaving the South American Missions as they are at present. Should the House refuse to concur, a committee of conference will have to settle the point.

MISSING IN THE PACIFIC STATES AND TERRITORIES.

The report of HOSMER W. RAYMOND, P. H. D., United States Commissioner of Mining for the Pacific States and Territories, was last week presented in the House, referred to the Committee on Mines and Mining, and ordered to be printed. It will make a volume of perhaps 300 pages. The report contains a great deal of interesting matter. Certain States and Territories are omitted altogether—for instance, Washington, Oregon, and New-Mexico—the Commissioner not being able to go everywhere in person, and there having been no appropriation at his disposal for the employment of assistants. It is understood that the Commissioner's estimate of the mineral product of 1866 shows a large falling off from that of 1867; and a portion of his report is devoted to a discussion of the reasons of this decrease and its necessary remedies. Like his predecessors—Gen. J. ROSS BROWNE—Mr. RAYMOND strongly urges a uniform mining law, and the establishment of a Mineral School of Mines. His discussion of the present condition and prospect of Comstock silver, and his description of White Pine, the latest fever with miners, He is understood to be a moderate advocate of the Senate tunnel. Mr. RAYMOND's position is as a mineral engineer, and Editor of the *American Journal of Mining*, a recognized authority, add weight to his opinions on all the subjects discussed by him. The public printer will issue the report without delay; and the Commissioner is reticent as to its particular contents, preferring it to be made public as a whole, rather than by piecemeal.

RAILROAD GUARANTEES.

The Senate Pacific Railroad Committee, at its meeting to-day, discussed the best scheme of guaranteeing the payment of the interest and not the principal of bonds which may be issued by Railroad companies for the construction of their lines. The Committee agreed to support a measure of this character for a short term and sentiment here to the Pacific, but no definite plan was agreed on for either road.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH SCHEMES.

The Senate Post Office Committee will begin the investigation of the scheme to establish a postal telegraph system on Monday next. Mr. ORTON, President of the Western Union Telegraph line, and others, will then be heard on the subject.

MRS. WELLS, PARDO & CO. CONTRACTS.

Postmaster-General RANDALL was before the Committee on Public Expenditures to-day, and gave a history of the present contract with WELLS, FARGO & Co., the same in substance as given in reply to the House resolution printed in the TIMES more than a month ago. He stated, among other things, that this contract was strongly opposed at the time it was made by HORACE GREELEY and other leading men in New-York in a conference at the Astor House.

Dispatches to the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 29.

THE PENSION FOR MRS. LINCOLN.

About a week ago Senator MORTON introduced a bill granting a pension to Mrs. MARY LINCOLN, widow of the late President of the United States. This resolution was referred to the Committee on Pensions. To-day, Mr. VAN WINKLE, the Chairman of that Committee, made a report, in which the Committee say, in substance, they are unable to perceive that Mrs. LINCOLN, as the widow of the late President, or in any other character, is entitled to a pension under the letter and spirit of any existing law. The Committee are aware the friends of the resolution expect to make a permanent provision for the lady under the guise of a pension; but no evidence has been furnished to them or reasons assigned why such provision should be made. If such was the intention, the Committee submit the reference should have been made to some other Committee. The Committee on Pensions, at least for some years past, have not thought it compatible with their duty, or the objects of their appointment, to recommend in any case the granting of any special pension, or any pension of a greater amount than is allowed by some general law. If they thought the amount so allowed too small, they would feel it incumbent on them to report a general bill for the relief in all similar cases. If the measure proposed was on account of extraordinary military or naval services, the proper reference would be to the Military or Naval Committee. Under all these circumstances the Committee have no alternative but to report against the passage of the present resolution.

REVENUE DECISION.

Commissioner ROLLINS, in accordance with the section of the Internal Revenue law which does not require actual competition alone as the condition for the same or equal taxation, decides that if two or more gas companies are located within the corporate limits of any city or town, or if two or more companies are so located, whether within the same corporate limits or not, that they can compete with each other, they are liable to pay the same rate of tax, which rate is to be determined by the monthly product of the company having the largest production. The above decision is based upon questions which have been under consideration concerning the rates of taxation proper to be assessed upon the gas companies of Boston and East Boston.

The Commissioner has written a letter stating that the law imposes no penalty upon distillers for non-compliance with the requirements of section 79 of the law in the matter of making monthly inventories. Persons, however, who continue to sell and neglect it or refuse to make such inventories necessarily fall under suspicion. If upon examination of their stock it shall be found to be unstamped, the presumption is that no tax has been paid upon it, and it should be reported to the Collector for seizure, and then the burden of proof will be upon such dealer to show some way, proceedings shall not be commenced for the forfeiture of all such unstamped goods to the United States. In the absence of any inventory, officers are not supposed to know that a dealer is selling old stock.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

Lieut.-Commander H. E. DAVIS has been detached from the command of the naval station at Laguna Island and ordered to the Naval Academy. Surgeon SCHNEIDER has been detached from the naval reserve at Boston and Surgeon FOSTER from New-York, and both placed on waiting orders.

PACIFIC RAILROAD BONDS.

Bonds will be issued from the office of the Register of the Treasury to-day in the amounts of $640,000 each to the Union and Central Pacific Railroad Companies. The total amount of bonds issued during the present month to the Pacific Railroad Companies, including the above, is $1,920,000.

PROHIBITION AGAINST JUDGE UNDERWOOD.

In the Supreme Court of the United States to-day, JOSEPH H. BRADLEY presented the petition of the Attorney-General of Virginia, and of JAMES LYONS, of counsel with him, stating that on the 6th of May last a negro named GRIFFIN was arrested and committed to jail aforesaid to the laws of Virginia, on the charge of felony. After conviction he was sentenced to confinement in the Penitentiary for two years and to pay $1,000 to JOHN C. UNDERWOOD, Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, discharged the prisoner, on the ground that Judge SHERRIFF, Judge of the Circuit Court, was not a competent judicial officer, he being disqualified under the third section of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. That proceeding against the Judge was illegal. No rule was served upon him, and besides it was a fact that SHERRIFF was in 1867 duly and legally appointed a Judge according to the Constitution of Virginia. Subsequently SALLY PARKER was sentenced by the Judge of Henrico County to be hung for arson, and similar sentence was passed upon JAMES PAGE PHILLIPS for murder, and these parties were also released by Judge UNDERWOOD, on the ground that Judges MORCURE, JAYNES and RIVES were disqualified for the reason stated as to Judge SHERRIFF. The petitioners pray in behalf of the State of Virginia, especially and that a writ of prohibition be issued, directed to Judge UNDERWOOD, restraining him from any further action in the cases above mentioned, and especially in that of JAMES PAGE PHILLIPS, in derogation of the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Virginia. The Supreme Court granted a writ to show cause, &c., returnable on FRIDAY next, and the motion is set down for argument on that day.

Gen. Grant and Gen. Banks.

Dispatch to the Evening Post.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 29.

It is expected that the correspondence in the Banks-Grant affair will be given to the public within a day or two from Gen. GRANT's headquarters. There appears to be no doubt as to Gen. BANKS having received positive orders to supersede Gen. GRANT, and the correspondence, when published, will show the fact. Of the truth of this I have the most positive assurance from unquestionable authority. Gen. BANKS had a protracted interview with Gen. GRANT this morning.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

THIRD SESSION.

SENATE.... WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 29.

The President presented the credentials of Hon. ZACHARIAH CHANDLER, Senator elect from Michigan, which were read and placed on file.

MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN presented a memorial from Rev. Dr. McCOSH, President of Princeton College, and the Professors of that institution, asking Congress to make an appropriation to enable them to take observations of the total eclipse of the sun in August next, and stating that such observations can be best made in southern parts of the United States.

Mr. SUMNER presented the petition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, for the repeal of the duty on plants and seeds.

Also, a petition of GEORGE R. UNION, a merchant of Boston, remonstrating against the treaty for the settlement of the *Alabama* claims as unjust to himself and other American claimants, inasmuch as it proposes to put upon the same footing claims of British subjects which have arisen out of discriminating legislation in favor of the Confederacy, and claims of American citizens for losses by privateers constructed by British builds, British wanned, and British armed vessels which left British ports under the protection of the British flag, and burned American ships without taking them into port for condemnation, and without any action being taken by the British Government to call the malefactors to account before them, to prevent the same. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. STEWART said he had hesitated as to whether he should present the memorial in open or secret session, but considering that the subject to which it related had received much publicity, he had thought it best to present it openly before the Senate.

THE REDISTRICTED LAWS.

Mr. PERRY also presented the petition of the Liberal Executive Committee in Colored Citizens for the passage of a bill to secure the enfranchisement of the Homestead Law, to certain lands in the late rebellious States, and to the benefit of the colored persons. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

THE M'GARAHAN CLAIM.

The President laid before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives communicating papers in relation to the McGARAHAN case.

Mr. MORRILL moved to refer the bill for the relief of Mrs. McGARAHAN, with the accompanying papers, to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. PERRY supposed that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. MORTON) did not mean any reflection upon the Committee on Private Land Claims, which had already examined and reported upon it, but his motion implied such a reflection.

Mr. MORTON said that he certainly meant no reflection on the Committee on Private Land Claims. He had moved to refer the claim to the Judiciary Committee because he believed it involved a question which could be better considered by that Committee.

Mr. THURMAN hoped that it would not be referred to the Judiciary Committee, but would be left with the Committee that had already examined it in part.

Mr. MORRILL replied that he desired no discrimination in favor of the Committee on Private Land Claims. The bill had been considered by the Judiciary Committee of the House, and ought to have been referred at first to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, because it involved a question of law. He was entirely in favor of the resolution of Connecticut that the claim should be referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims, especially as the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DIXON) was a member of that Committee.

Mr. PERRY said he had not understood the bill and meant by the remarks that he made to call attention upon the bill. He still thought that the bill ought to go to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

Mr. CONKLING denied that the claim involved any question requiring investigation by the Judiciary Committee, and he insisted that it belonged to the Committee on Private Land Claims. The Senator from Maine, (Mr. FESSENDEN,) speaking of this claim the other day had referred to a letter to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, signed by him (Mr. CONKLING) on the merits of the claim in this bill. He wished to have it understood that he had signed that letter in his official action on public affairs, and added nothing to the weight that whatever said or implied to the contrary did or implied what was false. The claim was not of a class peculiar to the country which he in part represented, a class of claims which had originated in and followed the development of the resources of the State. It was a claim which had arisen among the citizens, and he had looked for the report of the Committee because he believed it would be the proper way of disposing of the claim.

Mr. FESSENDEN said that the letter to which he had used the word "secret" in another connection than that in which the Senator from California (Mr. CONKLING) had understood him to use it, and had not intended to cast any reflections upon the Senator. He could not say that he had ever seen the letter to which the Senator from California (CONKLING) had for speaking with an honorable gentleman, and he could only characterize it in a very subordinate class of mind. The letter of the Senator to the Commissioner of the General Land Office had not also given (Mr. FESSENDEN) a document at which the gentleman should feel ashamed, if they took a different view he could not help it.

Mr. CONKLING did not see the importation of the Senator from Maine for his conduct. He had said what he thought it right to say in view of the previous remarks of the Senator from Maine, and he was willing to go to the country upon the question of discussion. He did not care a straw whether the bill and papers were referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

Mr. HOWARD introduced a bill for the relief of the Detroit Union Railroad Company. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Also a bill, at the request of the Canadian bank authorities, authorizing them to do business in this country. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Also a bill, on the request of the Detroit, Hillsdale and Indiana Railroad Company, to aid in the construction of a railroad from the Michigan State line to the Detroit River. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. HOWARD presented the petition of a railroad and telegraph from Jefferson, Texas, to the Pacific Ocean, and memorialized Congress to grant them a subsidy of thirty thousand dollars per mile. The guarantee is also to be made for the following railroads: From Dallas, Texas, to Shreveport, Red River; from Memphis to Little Rock, Arkansas. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

MATTERS OF SUBORDINATE.

Mr. COWAN introduced a bill to further the administration of justice, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

It provides that after July 1st no final judgment of a Circuit or District Court shall be reviewed by the Supreme Court on writ of error or appeal, unless the matter in dispute, exclusive of costs, shall exceed the sum or value of two thousand dollars, and that in the case of a writ of error or appeal from the decision of the highest court of any State, the matter in dispute shall exceed the sum or value of five thousand dollars, exclusive of costs, or the validity of a patent or copyright shall be in question. It also provides that no writ of error or appeal shall be allowed to any judgment or decree rendered more than five years before the entry of the writ of error or appeal, and that no writ of error or appeal shall be allowed where the matter in dispute is the title or possession of real property which has not been passed upon in the case of final judgment or decree in the Circuit Court, unless the Circuit Court shall certify that in its opinion the question is proper for the decision of the Supreme Court. It also provides that no writ of error or appeal shall be allowed where the matter in dispute is the title or possession of real property which has not been passed upon in the case of final judgment or decree in the Circuit Court, unless the Circuit Court shall certify that in its opinion the question is proper for the decision of the Supreme Court. It also provides that no writ of error or appeal shall be allowed where the matter in dispute is the title or possession of real property which has not been passed upon in the case of final judgment or decree in the Circuit Court, unless the Circuit Court shall certify that in its opinion the question is proper for the decision of the Supreme Court.

ADVERSE REPORTS.

Mr. THURMAN, from the Judiciary Committee, reported adversely on the following bills:

Mr. ROBERTSON—To extend the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims to claims of loyal citizens for property taken during the late war.

Mr. POMEROY—To authorize the payment to citizens furnished the Engineer and Ordnance Departments.

Mr. DIXON—In relation to the compulsory of witnesses; and authorizes imprisonment with hard labor in certain cases; to provide for the trial and punishment of accessories to criminal offenses; and the House bill to restore to pre-emption purchasers, who, unknowingly, purchased lands which have been improperly sampled.

Mr. VAN WINKLE, from the Committee on Pensions, reported back unfavorably the joint resolution granting a pension to Mrs. MARY LINCOLN.

Mr. POMEROY, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported favorably on the bill granting lands to aid in the construction of the Wisconsin and Lake Superior Railroad; also, on the House bill to regulate the disposition of lands that may be granted in aid of railways; and favorably the bill granting lands to the State of Minnesota to aid in securing the navigation of the Mississippi River immediately above the Falls of St. Anthony.

DIPLOMATIC APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill with amendments. The provision for consolidating various Central and South American Missions, is stricken out.

A VIRGINIA RAILROAD.

Mr. WILLEY introduced a bill providing for the sale of lands to aid in the consecration of the West-Virginia Central Railroad.

It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to sell to the Company 3,200 sections of land, to be selected in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas, at seventy-five cents per acre, in ten annual instalments, of which $400,000 is to be expended in improving and completing said lands within ten years.

THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the order of the day—the proposed constitutional amendment.

MR. DIXON'S SPEECH.

Mr. DIXON, being entitled to the floor, made an argument against it. He insisted that the power to regulate suffrage was an essential of the Constitution of a State having a republican form of government, and that the Constitution could never be changed without thereby losing its republican character. It was for this reason that the Constitution, originally formed, avoided all interference with suffrage in the States. The early statesmen had all regarded this as a tender point to be strictly guarded by the State Constitutions, and no State had any more power to relinquish its control over suffrage, without its own, Rhode Island, than it had power to form a republican form of government and set up a monarchy.

Mr. DIXON concluded as follows:

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have already said that the question before the Senate is not merely a question of suffrage, but that it goes to the very founding of republican governments, and to the powers of the States to determine and establish each for itself the qualifications of its own voters. It is important to bear in mind this distinction. There are in the State of Connecticut, and doubtless in all the States, many who are in favor of universal suffrage without distinction of race and color, who yet cling to the right of each State to fix for itself the qualifications of its own voters. The pending constitutional amendment proposes to transfer this right from the States to the General Government, by the consent of three-fourths of the States; but the character of the Government is as much changed by altering the qualifications of voters as it were done by act of Congress. All the States will not consent to the change, and those that do not thus consent will be deprived by external power, of the essential characteristic of self-government, as completely as if the change were made by a mere lawful Congress. Even the consent of a State, however freely rendered, would not prevent the necessary consequences of the change. The loss of the vital and essential element of self-government in the power of deciding freely, independently and without appeal, upon the qualifications of voters. Therefore, it will be found that many advocates of negro suffrage will condemn and oppose this attempt to overthrow the rights of the States, while others, who do not regard the question as the establishment of the principle involved in this amendment. They are unwilling to see the ancient Commonwealth which won one national independence and formed one national Government, postponer with the younger sisters, who fill up the Union, or an United States, which has been proud of its republican character, dependent, self-governing republics, to the humble and helpless condition of subject provinces, whose people exercise the right of suffrage under conditions and regulations imposed by a central power. For myself, I can only speak for Connecticut; for a brief period I may still claim the right to the Senate chair, and I can say that the two vacancies existing in the seats of Connecticut in the Senate and House of Representatives, the chief remaining duty and evidence that she at all the people therein which she has been for many successive biennial years, shall, I trust, be supplied with persons who will represent the State, and who will not be ashamed to say that they will not purchase their seats by the sacrifice of the principles of self-government.

Mr. TRUMBULL moved to amend the Constitutional Amendment by striking out the words "race, color or previous condition of servitude," and to insert instead, "for any reason not equally applicable to all citizens."

Mr. FESSENDEN moved to amend the amendment proposed by the Senator from Illinois, by striking out the words "race, color or previous condition of servitude," and to insert instead, "for any reason not equally applicable to all citizens."

Mr. HOWARD moved to amend the amendment proposed by the Senator from Illinois, by striking out the words "race, color or previous condition of servitude," and to insert instead, "for any reason not equally applicable to all citizens."

Mr. FESSENDEN moved to amend the Constitutional Amendment by striking out the words "race, color or previous condition of servitude," and to insert instead, "for any reason not equally applicable to all citizens."

Mr. HOWARD moved to amend the Constitutional Amendment